
Scoping Report for the Agua Fria National Monument/ Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Areas

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**U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Phoenix Field Office**

Submitted by:


Jones & Stokes

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**Scoping Report for the
Agua Fria National Monument/
Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Areas**

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Executive Summary: Scoping Report for the Agua Fria National Monument/ Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Areas

Introduction

The Scoping Report for the Agua Fria National Monument/Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Areas documents the public scoping process of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Phoenix Field Office (PFO) for Resource Management Plans (RMPs) for the Agua Fria National Monument and Bradshaw-Harquahala planning areas. These RMPs will be published in conjunction with a combined Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for both planning areas.

The scoping report includes a description of BLM's scoping process, an overview of the planning schedule, and an analysis of comments received. Comments from the public, agencies, tribal governments and all other interested groups are represented, along with BLM management concerns, to identify issues important to the future management of public lands. These issues will guide development of alternatives to be analyzed in the EIS and ultimately guide development of both RMPs.

Plan Overview

The two planning areas encompass more than 3,000,000 acres. BLM-managed lands within these planning boundaries comprise approximately 967,000 acres, including the entire 71,100 acres of the Agua Fria National Monument.

The Agua Fria National Monument was created on January 11, 2000, with the signing by the President of Proclamation 7263. As a result of its designation as a National Monument, it now requires a separate RMP. The Bradshaw-Harquahala planning area includes land within the Black Canyon corridor, the Lake Pleasant area, the Wickenburg area, Congress/Yarnell, Buckeye, and western areas of unincorporated Maricopa County. The PFO currently manages resources for the Bradshaw-Harquahala area under two Land Use Plans (LUPs): the 1988 *Phoenix Resource Management Plan* and the 1983 *Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan*.

Scoping Process

The formal scoping process began on April 24, 2002 with the publication of a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the *Federal Register*. The NOI initiated solicitation for public comment. A total of 10 public scoping meetings were held during the scoping period.

Public meetings were advertised by a variety of methods. Volume 1 of the “Arizona Planning Bulletin for the Agua Fria National Monument Plan and Bradshaw-Harquahala Management Plan Revision,” available in both English and Spanish, was distributed to a mailing list of more than 1,700 individuals and organizations. The bulletin included a statement of the purpose and need for the project, a description of the public scoping process, information about upcoming meeting times and locations, and stamped, pre-addressed “planning worksheets” for each planning area. Interested parties were encouraged to complete these questionnaires and submit them to BLM to make their concerns known. The public was also invited to submit comments via e-mail or to visit the PFO in person to review comments received to date.

Legal notices of the public scoping meetings were published, as required, in six newspapers in the geographic area of the planning efforts. Flyers were prepared in both English and Spanish versions and distributed throughout the planning areas, and a press release was prepared and distributed to hundreds of media outlets throughout Arizona.

The scoping meetings provided an opportunity for the public to receive information, ask questions, and provide input into BLM’s planning effort for the two planning areas. Informative brochures and fact sheets were available to meeting attendees, and planning area maps delineating current land uses were displayed at each meeting. Discussions covered plan development and environmental review processes, in addition to relevant timelines. All comments were transcribed onto a flip chart during the meeting and were recorded via tape recorder.

Collaborative Planning Process

BLM PFO contracted with James Kent Associates (JKA) to work with residents and community groups in the planning areas regarding their issues and concerns. JKA staff visited the communities of Wickenburg, Yarnell, Buckeye, Tonopah, Castle Hot Springs, New River, Black Canyon City, Cordes Junction, Mayer, Dewey, Humboldt, and Prescott Valley. They have also been in Phoenix, Flagstaff and Prescott, talking with environmental and recreation groups. Citizens have discussed their concerns with BLM land use management in their areas, as well as suggested ideas for improving current land management practices. Residents in some areas have even conducted community surveys in order to provide input and guidance to BLM in the planning process.

BLM has also focused on internally identifying management concerns and on reviewing their own policies and goals, and contracted with the consulting firm of Jones & Stokes to collect data, conduct meetings, and facilitate the planning process as required by the National Environmental Policy Act.

In the coming months, BLM will conduct workshops in a number of communities to develop alternatives for analysis in the EIS process. Alternatives must reflect citizen interests as well as agency concerns to evaluate how land use decisions will be made in the future. Citizens are encouraged to participate throughout this process.

Cooperating Agencies and Agency Coordination

The PFO held a cooperating agency workshop on October 30, 2002 to enable potential cooperators to meet each other, discuss BLM's planning process and the meaning of cooperating agency status, and begin developing the Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) that are required for entities to become formal cooperators in BLM's planning process.

BLM is currently working with the Arizona State Land Department, Arizona Department of Transportation, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Maricopa County, Yavapai County, City of Phoenix, City of Peoria, and Town of Wickenburg to establish cooperating agency status agreements. Additionally, Tonto National Forest and Prescott National Forest are working together to develop a joint MOU. A cooperating agency status agreement template has been sent to some agencies that have not yet replied.

Agencies were given the opportunity to comment as part of the scoping process. On December 19, 2002, a meeting was held in Phoenix to review the planning process and answer questions of agencies. Representatives from a total of 14 coordinating agencies were present. All agencies were encouraged to provide written comments by the December 30, 2002 deadline. The concerns of responding agencies were then entered into the administrative record and incorporated into the scoping report.

Tribal Consultations

The PFO sent letters on May 10, 2002, to initiate the tribal consultation process with tribes who have oral traditions or cultural concerns relating to the planning areas, or who are documented to have occupied or used them during historic times. These tribes include: the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, the Yavapai-Prescott Tribe, the Yavapai-Apache Indian Community (Camp Verde), the Hopi Tribe, the Gila River Indian Community, the Colorado River Indian Tribes, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, the Ak-Chin Indian Community, the Tohono O'odham Nation, and the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe. Several interactions with tribal members have been made to solicit comments with regards to the BLM's planning effort. BLM will continue to consult with Indian tribes throughout the planning process.

Collection of Comments

All scoping comments for the two planning areas were received or postmarked by November 15, 2002. BLM received 364 comments recorded from the public meetings and more than 900 written submissions of comments containing a total of 2,712

individual written comments. Of the total 3,076 comments received throughout the scoping process, 38% came in the form of completed planning worksheets, 15% as letters, 12% as oral comments recorded on meeting flip charts, 20% as emails, and 15% that were recorded as “other.” The “other” category included signed petitions as well as formatted template letters from organized stakeholder groups.

Results of Comments

All comments received for this scoping effort were assigned, based on content, to one of 12 designated issue categories. Comments were further divided into various sub-issues within each category. All comments were read, evaluated, and manually entered into an analytic database. Figures ES-1 and ES-2 below depict the most frequently mentioned issues for each planning area.

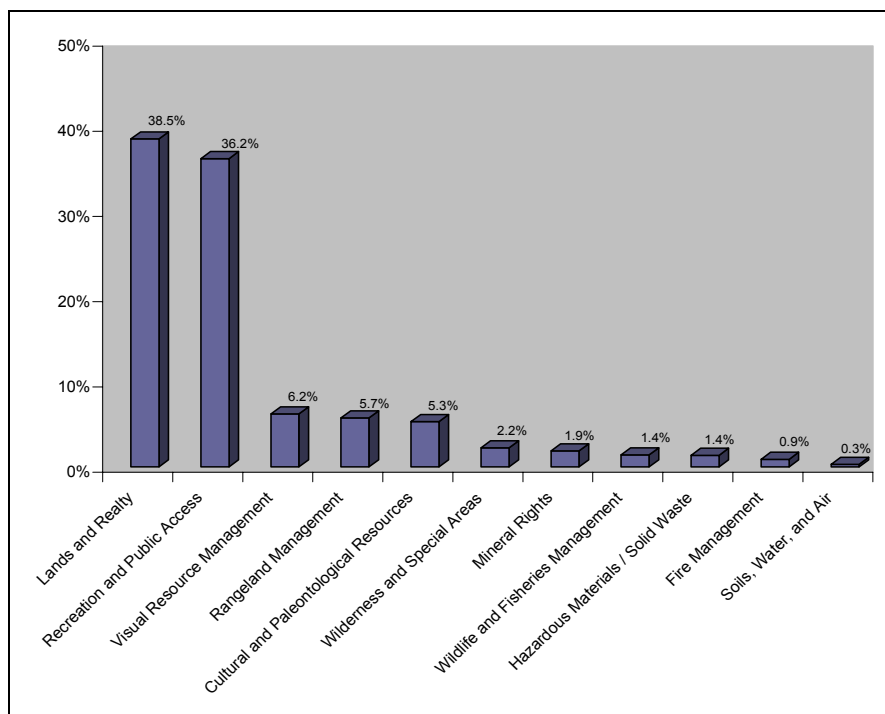


Figure ES-1. Public Response by Issue – Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area

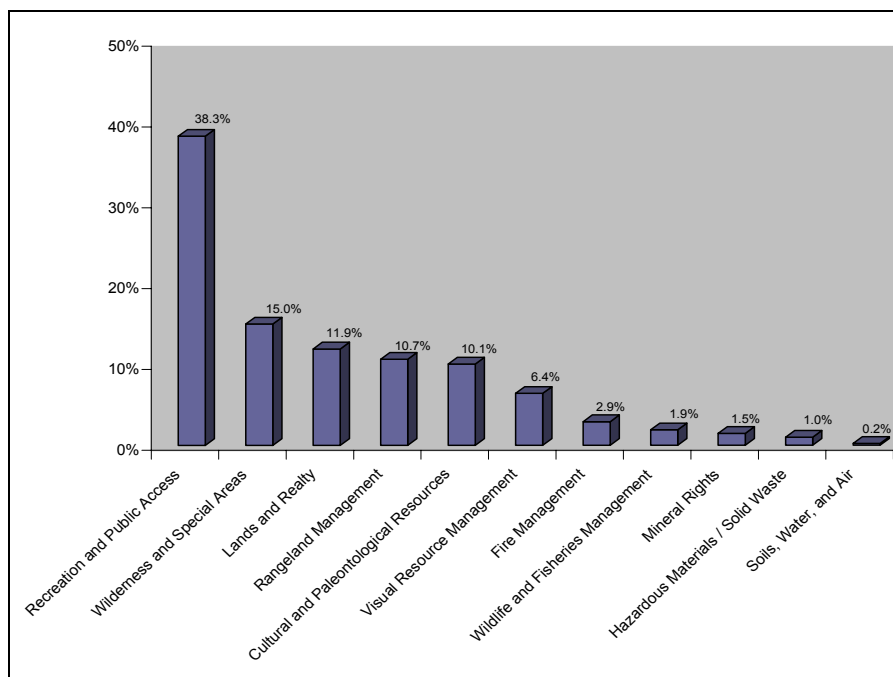


Figure ES-2. Public Response by Issue – Agua Fria National Monument Planning Area

In an effort to relate the analysis and discussion of issues to the community level, the planning areas were divided into six community areas: Phoenix, Buckeye, Wickenburg–Yarnell–Castle Hot Springs, Prescott–Prescott Valley–Chino Valley, Black Canyon City–New River, and Dewey–Humboldt–Spring Valley.

Analysis by specific community area of the comments received led to identification and ranking of the issues of primary concern for each area. These results are presented in tabular form in the scoping report.

Issues Considered but Not Further Addressed

As noted under “Results of Comments” above, all comments received for this scoping effort were assigned, based on content, to one of 12 designated issue categories. Comments were further divided into various sub-issues within each category. After lengthy consideration, BLM then assigned each sub-issue to a specific planning classification as follows:

- A—will be addressed in the current Resource Management Plan,
- B—will be resolved through policy or administrative actions,
- C—is already being addressed or will be addressed independent of the current planning effort, or
- D—determined to be beyond the scope of current planning.

Table ES-1 lists each sub-issue that was assigned to planning classifications B, C, or D.

Table ES-1. Classification of Issues Considered but Not Further Addressed

Issue	Sub-Issue		
	Planning Classification B	Planning Classification C	Planning Classification D
General Recreation		Designated open space and trails should be marked/posted as such	
General Recreation		Establish educational programs for all users of public lands	
General Recreation		Trails should be better maintained to encourage users to stay on trails	
Law Enforcement		Increase law enforcement efforts	
Law Enforcement		Increase preventative measures for vandalism	
Off-Highway Vehicle		Use volunteer help from OHV-affiliated groups	
Off-Highway Vehicle		Use volunteer help from OHV-affiliated groups	
Off-Highway Vehicle		Establish rules (and enforce where appropriate) for use of OHVs	
Grazing		Evaluate grazing impacts	
Riparian Habitat		Maintain waters for livestock	
Riparian Habitat			Reduce grazing fees
Cultural Resources		Increase protection of existing sites and cultural artifacts	
Cultural Resources		Conduct cultural resource inventories	
Cultural Resources		Remedy archeological looting	
Cultural Resources		Establish/increase programs to educate public on cultural resource issues	
Wilderness Study Areas			Expand wilderness designations
Wilderness Study Areas			Expand Agua Fria to include New River and Tonto National Forest (A/F)

Table ES-1. Classification of Issues Considered but Not Further Addressed (Cont'd)

Issue	Sub-Issue		
	Planning Classification B	Planning Classification C	Planning Classification D
Wilderness Study Areas			Reduce amount of wilderness designation
Wild and Scenic Rivers		Manage Agua Fria River as Wild and Scenic (A/F)	
General Wildlife and Fisheries Management		Maintain waters for wildlife	
Hazardous Materials/Solid Waste		Increase preventative measures for litter/dumping	
Fire Management		Debris and brush clearing programs need to be expanded	
Land Tenure			Stop urban sprawl/No new development (A/F)
Land Tenure			Restrict development to prevent depletion of groundwater (A/F)
Land Tenure	Adjacent landowners should be better informed by BLM of pending changes		
Minerals		Expand mining activities (A/F)	
Minerals		Continue existing mining leases (A/F)	

Tabulations of Comments Received

Tables ES-2 and ES-3, below, show the numeric distributions of comments received for the Bradshaw-Harquahala and Agua Fria National Monument planning areas, respectively. Comment tabulations are grouped by issue and sub-issue category.

Table ES-2. Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area

Issue	Sub-Issue/Comment	Total Count
Land Tenure	Remove land from the disposal list	496
	Stop urban sprawl/No new development	133
	Restrict development to prevent depletion of groundwater	62
	Lands should be managed to preserve cultural and biological resources	38
General Recreation	Allow for recreational use	62
	Designated open space and trails should be marked/posted as such	17
	Establish educational programs for all users of public lands	17
	Develop multiple use areas	13
	Trails should be better maintained to encourage users to stay on trails	12
Off-Highway Vehicles	Maintain and allow OHV usage on existing trails	66
	Restrict and limit OHV usage on BLM lands	52
	Establish (or enforce where appropriate) rules for use of OHVs	44
	Establish educational program for OHV users	38
	Use volunteer help from OHV-affiliated groups	32
Transportation Network	Maintain public access	72
	Designations should also be made for primitive areas & motorized areas	49
	Close and rehabilitate all vehicle routes that threaten cultural and biological resources	27
	Create environmentally sensitive transportation system	21
	Allow public access for nonmotorized modes only	16
Law Enforcement	Increase law enforcement efforts	40
	Increase preventative measures for vandalism	10
Visual Resource Management	Land should be preserved and remain untouched	85
	Preserve natural beauty	34
Grazing	Continue leases for grazing	35
	Limit grazing	28
	Evaluate grazing impacts	27
Riparian Resources	Restrict access by livestock	12
	Maintain waters for livestock	3
	Protect the instream flow of the Agua Fria River	4
Cultural and Paleontological Resources	Increase protection of existing sites and cultural artifacts	78
	Prevent grazing in areas having significant cultural resources	7
	Conduct cultural resource inventories	5
	Remedy archeological looting	5
	Allow only limited access to existing sites, such as through guided tours	4
Wilderness Study Areas	Expand wilderness designations	28
	Conduct wilderness inventories	8
	Reduce amount of wilderness designation	2
Mineral	Reduce and limit mining activities	17
	Continue existing mining leases	14
	Expand mining activities	5
General Wildlife and Fisheries Management	Preserve habitat for birdwatching/wildlife viewing	18
	Maintain waters for wildlife	7
	Reintroduce native fish species to aquatic systems in the area	2
Hazardous Materials / Solid Waste	Increase preventative measures for litter/dumping	26
Fire Management	Return natural fire cycles	9
	Debris and brush clearing programs need to be expanded	5
	Return natural fire regime to mesa tops	3
Soils, Water, and Air	Conduct hydrological studies of watershed	3
	Restrict access to surface water from OHV users	2
	Restrict access to surface water from miners	1

Table ES-3. Agua Fria National Monument Planning Area

Issue	Sub-Issue/Comment	Total Count
General Recreation	Allow for recreational use	23
	Establish educational programs for all users of public lands	17
	Restrict shooting	11
	Trails should be better maintained to encourage users to stay on trails	11
	Build visitor center	9
	Joint BLM/community land stewardship programs should be enacted	8
Off-Highway Vehicles	Restrict and limit use	68
	Establish rules (and enforce where appropriate) for use of OHVs	35
	Establish educational program for OHV users	35
	Maintain and allow usage on existing trails	32
	Develop additional trails	28
Transportation Network	Create environmentally sensitive transportation system	76
	Close and rehabilitate all vehicle routes that threaten cultural and biological resources	56
	Designations should also be made for primitive areas & motorized areas	34
	Maintain public access	29
	Limit access to discourage extensive use	27
	Allow public access for nonmotorized modes only	20
Law Enforcement	Increase law enforcement efforts	34
	Increase preventative measures for vandalism	7
Wilderness Study Areas	Expand wilderness designations	99
	Expand Agua Fria to include New River and Tonto National Forest	41
	Conduct wilderness inventories	22
ACECs	Agua Fria River should be designated Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)	4
Wild and Scenic Rivers	Manage Agua Fria River as Wild & Scenic	90
Land Tenure	Stop urban sprawl/No new development	85
	Lands should be managed to preserve cultural and biological resources	55
	Restrict development to prevent depletion of groundwater	19
	Adjacent landowners should be better informed by BLM of pending changes	5
Grazing	Evaluate grazing impacts	44
	Limit grazing	39
	Continue leases for grazing	16
	Reduce grazing fees	1
Riparian Resources	Protect the instream flow of the Agua Fria River	55
	Restrict access by livestock	27
Cultural and Paleontological Resources	Increase protection of existing sites and cultural artifacts	105
	Prevent grazing in areas having significant cultural resources	22
	Conduct cultural resource inventories	14
	Allow only limited access to existing sites, such as through guided tours	12
	Establish/increase programs to educate public on cultural resource issues	7
Visual Resource Management	Land should be preserved and remain untouched	86
	Preserve natural beauty	24
Fire Management	Return natural fire regime to mesa tops	27
	Return natural fire cycles	21
	Debris and brush clearing programs need to be expanded	2
General Wildlife and Fisheries Management	Preserve habitat for birdwatching/wildlife viewing	16
	Maintain waters for wildlife	14
	Reintroduce native fish species to aquatic systems in the area	3
Mineral Rights	Reduce and limit mining activities	17
	Continue existing mining leases	4
	Expand mining activities	4
Hazardous Materials / Solid Waste	Increase preventative measures for litter/dumping	17
Soils, Water, and Air	Conduct hydrological studies of watershed	2
	Restrict access to surface water from miners	1
	Restrict access to surface water from OHV users	1

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern
ADEQ	Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
AEM	Adaptive Ecosystem Management
ALRIS	Arizona Land Resource Information System
AML	Appropriate Management Level
ARC	Arizona Rivers Coalition
AWC	Arizona Wilderness Coalition
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Resource Compensation Liability Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act
GIS	Geographic Information System
HMA	Herd Management Area
JKA	James Kent Associates
LUP	Land Use Plan
MOU	Memoranda of Understanding
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NOI	Notice of Intent
NTWC	Natural Trails and Waters Coalition
NWSRS	National Wild and Scenic River System
OHV	Off-Highway Vehicle
ORV	Off-Road Vehicle
PFO	BLM Phoenix Field Office
PIRG	U.S. Public Interest Research Group
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RI	Route Inventory
RMP	Resource Management Plan
RNA	Research Natural Area
ROD	Record of Decision
SEL	Split Estate Land
SHPO	Arizona State Historic Preservation Office
SRMA	Special Recreation Management Area
VRM	Visual Resource Management
WSA	Wilderness Study Area

Scoping Report for the Agua Fria National Monument/ Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Areas

Introduction

Overview/Purpose and Need

The U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Phoenix Field Office (PFO) in Phoenix, Arizona, has initiated development of a Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Agua Fria National Monument and a separate RMP for the Bradshaw-Harquahala planning area. Combined, the two planning areas encompass more than 3,000,000 acres. BLM manages the resources on approximately 967,000 surface acres within these planning boundaries, including the entire 71,100 acres of the Agua Fria National Monument, and retains subsurface (mineral) rights to an additional 725,100 acres.

The Agua Fria National Monument was created on January 11, 2000, with the signing by the President of Proclamation 7263. As a result of its designation as a National Monument, it now requires a separate plan.

In addition to the Agua Fria National Monument, the Bradshaw-Harquahala planning area includes land within the Black Canyon corridor, the Lake Pleasant area, the Wickenburg area, Congress/Yarnell, Buckeye, and western areas of unincorporated Maricopa County. The PFO currently manages resources for the Bradshaw-Harquahala area under two Land Use Plans (LUPs): the 1988 *Phoenix Resource Management Plan* and the 1983 *Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan*.

The demand for recreation, mineral materials, preservation of open space, and other infrastructure uses for the Phoenix metropolitan area was the impetus for initiating the *Lower Gila Resource Management Plan Amendment* in 1993. The lands north of Phoenix, however, were not included in this amendment and are still managed under the other two older LUPs referenced above. The degree of physical expansion and population growth was not foreseen by previous planners, and therefore was not accounted for in the original plans. To address the population expansion and consequent increased demands for use of the lands,

BLM is proposing to consolidate both existing planning documents for the area into one all-inclusive plan called the *Bradshaw-Harquahala Resource Management Plan*.

Each RMP (Agua Fria National Monument and Bradshaw-Harquahala) will develop a common vision for the respective planning area and planning decisions will be aimed at attaining that vision. In addition to the two RMPs, planning efforts for the Agua Fria National Monument and Bradshaw-Harquahala planning area will result in a single Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and two Records of Decision (ROD). The EIS will propose alternative solutions to planning issues and identify impacts associated with each proposed alternative. Additionally, it will identify BLM's preferred alternative, which will be based both on public input and BLM's need to adhere to current regulations, laws, and planning guidance. The RODs, when signed by the Director of the BLM Arizona State Office, provides the "official" approval of the EIS.

The initial step in developing a management plan is the scoping process. "Scoping" is a term from the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) that describes the process by which federal agencies make certain that any action incorporates early and open public involvement. To ensure this happens, BLM has solicited comments from numerous stakeholders (the State of Arizona; Maricopa, Yavapai and La Paz Counties; tribal governments; municipal governments; other federal agencies; and all other interested groups, agencies and individuals). This scoping report documents the results of the public scoping process for the Agua Fria National Monument and Bradshaw-Harquahala planning areas by presenting a description of the process itself, an analysis of the comments and concerns received from stakeholders, management issues, planning criteria, and future steps in the planning process.

Description of the Planning Area

Located approximately 40 miles north of metropolitan Phoenix, the Agua Fria National Monument encompasses approximately 71,100 acres of BLM land and 1,444 acres of scattered private land parcels. The Monument is located entirely within Yavapai County, Arizona, to the east of Interstate 17, northeast of Black Canyon City, and southeast of Cordes Lakes (Figure 1). The Monument is managed solely by the BLM PFO. The area received the designation of National Monument by Presidential Proclamation 7263, signed January 11, 2000 for the express purpose of protecting the area's unique archaeological sites and sensitive natural resources.













The Bradshaw-Harquahala planning area is located within Maricopa, Yavapai, and La Paz Counties, to the north-northwest of and including portions of the Phoenix metropolitan area, the sixth largest and one of the fastest growing metropolitan areas in the United States. The southern boundary of the planning area is defined by the route of Interstate 10 (I-10), from its northernmost juncture with Interstate 17 (I-17) in central Phoenix to I-10 mile marker 53 to the west, in La Paz County. The eastern boundary of the Bradshaw-Harquahala planning

Figure 1 Resource Management Planning Areas

Legend

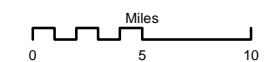
-  Agua Fria National Monument Planning Area
-  Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area
-  County Boundary
-  City Boundary
-  BLM Wilderness Area
-  USFS Wilderness Area
-  Interstate
-  Highway
-  Major River, Stream or Wash

Land Ownership

- | | |
|--|--|
|  Private Land |  BOR |
|  State Land |  Parks & Recreation |
|  BLM Land |  Indian Lands |
|  USFS Land |  Game & Fish |
|  F&WS Refuge |  County Lands |
|  Military Reserve |  NPS |

Note: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) conducts land use planning only in the areas administered by BLM. BLM has no planning authority under the municipal or county planning legislation of the State of Arizona.

No warranty is made by BLM for the use of this map for purposes not intended by BLM, or to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of the information shown. Spatial information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This information may be updated without notification.



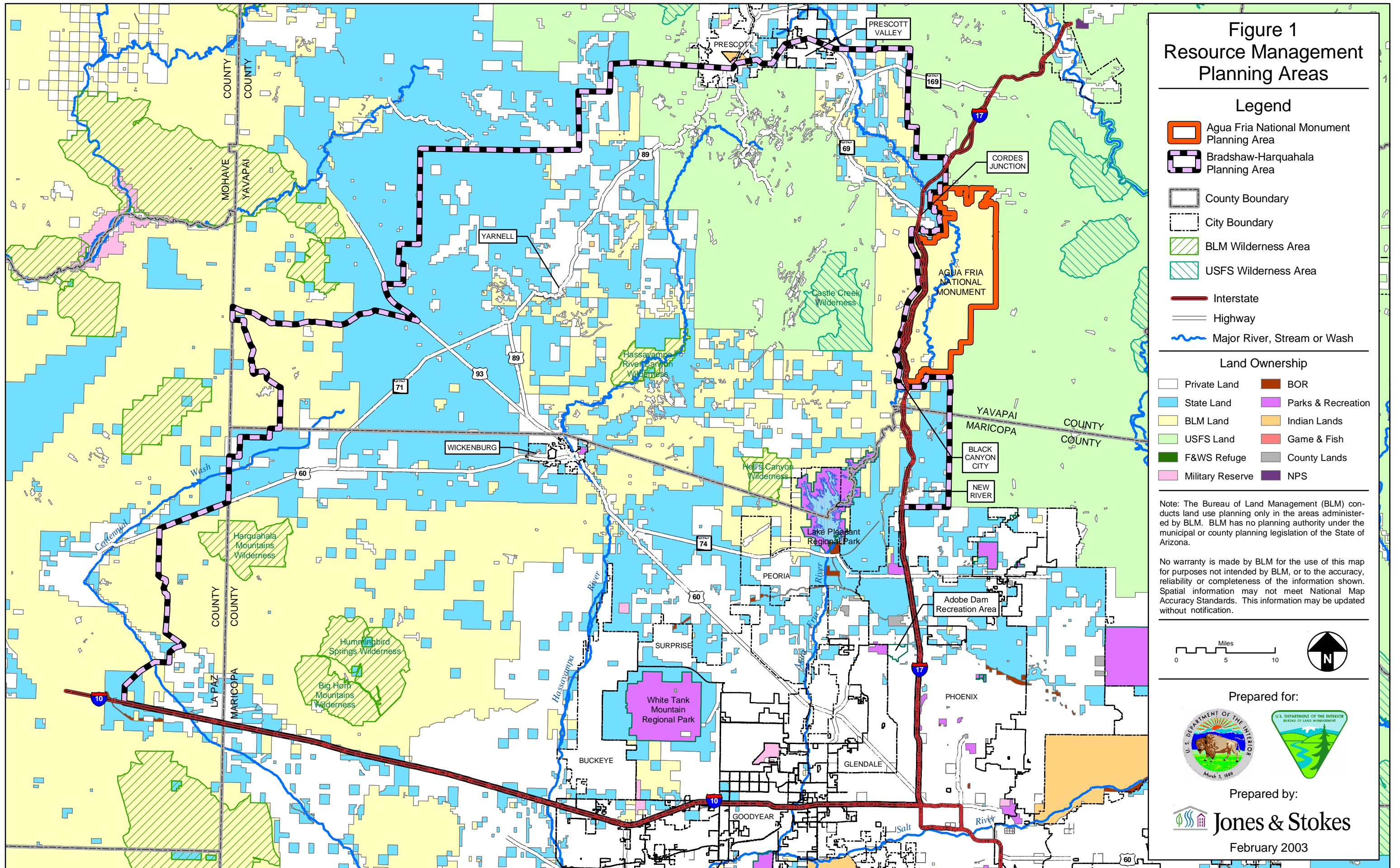
Prepared for:



Prepared by:

 **Jones & Stokes**

February 2003



area is defined for much of its length by the route of I-17. The northern boundary of the planning area runs generally east-west through the towns of Prescott and Prescott Valley, and the western limits are defined by a staggered boundary running generally southwest to I-10, 37 miles west of the town of Tonopah.

The Bradshaw-Harquahala planning area includes the cities of Glendale, Peoria, Surprise, El Mirage, and Litchfield Park; portions of the cities of Phoenix, Prescott, Avondale, and Goodyear; the towns of Wickenburg and Youngtown; portions of the towns of Buckeye and Prescott Valley; the unincorporated communities of Sun City, Sun City West, Sun City Grand, Black Canyon City, Castle Hot Springs, Cordes Junction, Mayer, Humboldt, Dewey, Morristown, Congress, Yarnell, and Aguila; and portions of the unincorporated communities of New River and Tonopah.

The following land ownership details were provided by the Arizona State Land Department's Arizona Land Resource Information System (ALRIS) (Arizona Land Resource Information System 2002).

Table 1. Details of Surface Land Ownership within the Planning Area

Land Status	Acreage	Percentage
Federal		
Bureau of Land Management	967,010	32%
National Forest Land	308,300	10%
Bureau of Reclamation	2,670	0%
Subtotal	1,277,980	42%
State		
Arizona State Land Department	863,450	28%
State and County parks	52,770	2%
County Lands	2,220	0%
Subtotal	918,440	30%
Tribal Lands	450	0%
Subtotal	450	0%
Private Lands	842,810	28%
Subtotal	842,810	28%
Total	3,039,680	100%

As shown in Table 1, BLM manages 967,010 acres (32%) of the land within the planning area. Jurisdiction of the Bradshaw-Harquahala planning area is mixed, with approximately one-third of the area administered by BLM, another third administered by the Arizona State Land Department, and the remaining third in private ownership. Jurisdiction of many of these parcels appears as a "checkerboard" pattern, with relatively few contiguous boundaries.

Recent population trends have led to a dramatic increase in demand for the use of public lands within the planning area. The prevailing issue is that no single planning and management authority has adequate control to guide overall development while protecting the existing characteristics of the Bradshaw-Harquahala area. From 1990 to 1999, the Census Bureau estimated that the population of Maricopa County increased by nearly 740,000. During that period, the City of Peoria annexed more than 59,000 acres, including more than 16,000 acres of BLM-managed lands. The City of Phoenix added over 19,000 acres, including nearly 700 acres managed by BLM, to its jurisdiction.

Collaborative Planning Process

The American 4-H Council calls collaboration “shared decision-making.” The BLM Planning Handbook defines collaboration as “a cooperative process in which interested parties, often with widely varied interests, work together to seek solutions with broad support for managing public and other lands.” In effect, collaborative planning is “people working together to do what’s best for the land and communities.”

BLM PFO has been engaged in developing broader methods of citizen contact during the last two years, which has increased its understanding of the issues and concerns of Arizona residents regarding public lands within the planning area. To support a strong collaborative planning effort, BLM PFO retained the services of James Kent Associates (JKA) to conduct community fieldwork and to train local BLM staff to prepare for the land use planning process to come. JKA began fieldwork in November 2000, the results of which were documented in its *Summary Report of Community Fieldwork for Southern Bradshaw Planning*, dated February 7, 2001. The results were also summarized in the “Preparation Plan” submitted by the PFO to the BLM Washington Office to justify financial support for the current land use planning effort.

JKA staff have talked with hundreds of residents over the past year about the BLM land use planning process. Staff have visited the communities of Wickenburg, Yarnell, Buckeye, Tonopah, Castle Hot Springs, New River, Black Canyon City, Cordes Junction, Mayer, Dewey, Humboldt, and Prescott Valley. They have also been in Phoenix, Flagstaff and Prescott, talking with environmental and recreation groups. Citizens have discussed their concerns with BLM land use management in their areas, as well as suggested ideas for improving current land management practices. Residents in some areas have also conducted community surveys in order to provide input and guidance to BLM in the planning process.

In addition to direct fieldwork, the PFO engaged BLM’s National Training Center to present two courses to local BLM staff that are specifically designed to foster collaborative approaches. The first of these, titled “Learning Community: Linking People, Place and Perspective,” was held November 20–December 2, 1999. The second seminar, “Community-Based Partnerships and Ecosystems for a Healthy Environment,” was held April 11–13, 2000. The two courses were

well received and helped contribute to direct, collaborative action on the ground with Arizona citizens. The PFO also contracted with JKA for a week of intensive community fieldwork with staff during the week of May 20, 2002. Called “The Discovery Weeklong,” PFO staff engaged in direct contact with citizens throughout the week to learn of citizen issues and further refine their understanding of broader community interests. A report summarizing citizen interests and issues gleaned from these diverse approaches to citizen contact was provided to the PFO by JKA on June 1, 2002 in a report titled *Bradshaw Foothills, Agua Fria National Monument, and Harquahala Mountains Planning Effort: Issues, Management Concerns, and Management and Partnership Opportunities by Community Resource Units (CRUs)*.

Citizens throughout the planning area are interested in participating in the planning process and share many issues in common. BLM has also focused on internally identifying management concerns and on reviewing their mandate and mission. BLM has also contracted with the consulting firm of Jones & Stokes to collect data, conduct meetings, and facilitate the planning process as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

In the coming months, Jones & Stokes, with JKA support, will conduct workshops in a number of communities to develop alternatives for analysis in the environmental impact statement process. Alternatives must reflect citizen interests as well as agency concerns to evaluate how land use decisions will be made in the future. Citizens are encouraged to participate throughout this process.

Scoping Process

The PFO follows the public involvement requirements according to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations set forth in Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 1501.7, which states, “There should be an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action.”

The formal scoping process began on April 24, 2002 with the publication of a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the *Federal Register*, which notified the public of BLM’s intent to develop an RMP for the Agua Fria National Monument and an RMP for the Bradshaw-Harquahala planning area. The NOI initiated solicitation for public comment.

A total of 10 public scoping meetings were held during the scoping period. Meeting locations, dates, and times were arranged to accommodate a variety of schedules.

Public meetings were advertised in a brochure titled “Arizona Planning Bulletin for the Agua Fria National Monument Plan and Bradshaw-Harquahala Management Plan Revision, Volume 1” (September 2002) (Appendix A), which was mailed to more than 1,700 individuals and organizations. The publication

was available in both English and Spanish. Volume 1 of the planning bulletin featured a statement of the purpose and need for the project and a description of the public scoping process, along with information about upcoming meeting times and locations. In addition, the planning bulletin included two “Planning Worksheets,” one for the Agua Fria National Monument and the other for the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area, which were postage-paid and preaddressed forms interested individuals or groups could complete and return to the BLM PFO. The public was also invited to submit comments via e-mail to the address <AZ_AFNM_Bradshaw@blm.gov> or to visit the PFO in person to review comments received to date.

In subsequent months, three additional volumes of the “Planning Bulletin” are to be distributed that will provide details on other, later phases of the planning process.

Legal notices of the public scoping meetings were published, as required, in the following newspapers, scheduled to appear at least 15 days before the date of a meeting held in the geographic area of each newspaper’s readership:

1. *Arizona Republic*, Phoenix, Arizona (statewide edition)
2. *Arizona Daily Sun*, Flagstaff, Arizona
3. *Prescott Valley Tribune*, Prescott, Arizona
4. *East Valley Tribune*, Mesa, Arizona
5. *Presna Hispana*, Phoenix, Arizona (statewide edition)
6. *Wickenburg Sun*, Wickenburg, Arizona

In addition to legal notices, flyers were prepared in both English and Spanish versions (Appendix B). The flyers advertised the location and times of the scoping meeting throughout the planning areas. Twenty-nine community groups posted the flyers in public locations throughout the planning area.

A press release was prepared and distributed to hundreds of media outlets throughout Arizona (Appendix C). As is standard practice in the broadcast industry, radio and television stations determined for themselves whether and how often to broadcast a public service announcement containing all or selected information from the press release. Typically, radio stations timed their public service announcements to advertise a public scoping meeting in the geographic area served by the station, a few days in advance of the meeting. The stations broadcast selected information to introduce the planning process, then announced the pertinent meeting.

Table 2 lists all meeting locations, dates and times, the total number of attendees, and the number of participants at each meeting who chose to speak publicly.

Table 2. Public Scoping Meeting Schedule and Attendance

Place	Location	Date	Time	Attendance	Speakers
Museum of Northern Arizona	Flagstaff, AZ	28-Sep-02	1-3 p.m.	6	4
Mayer High School Gymnasium	Mayer, AZ	1-Oct-02	7-9 p.m.	58	18
Black Canyon Community Center/Albins Civic Center	Black Canyon City, AZ	2-Oct-02	6:30-8:30 p.m.	88	23
Senior Citizens Center	Yarnell, AZ	3-Oct-02	1:30-5 p.m.	30	20
Champie Schoolhouse	Castle Hot Springs, AZ	5-Oct-02	10 a.m.-noon	40	17
Buckeye Community Center	Buckeye, AZ	7-Oct-02	7-9 p.m.	22	7
Paradise Valley Community Center	Phoenix, AZ	8-Oct-02	7-9 p.m.	81	23
Wickenburg Community Center	Wickenburg, AZ	9-Oct-02	6:30-8:30 p.m.	69	16
Yavapai College Performance Hall	Prescott, AZ	14-Oct-02	6:30-8:30 p.m.	136	31
Peoria Community Center	Peoria, AZ	16-Oct-02	7-9 p.m.	34	10
Total				564	169

The scoping meetings provided an opportunity for the public to receive information, ask questions, and provide input into BLM's planning effort for the two planning areas. Each meeting began with a 30-minute informal viewing of exhibits by the public. BLM personnel were available for discussion during the informal session. Informative brochures and fact sheets were available to meeting attendees, and planning area maps delineating current land uses were displayed at each meeting.

Handouts at each scoping meeting included:

- Planning Bulletins with postage-paid comment sheets for each of the planning areas; and
- Fact sheets on the following resources within the planning areas: Wilderness, Recreation, Minerals Management, Rangeland Management, Lands and Realty, Cultural Resources, Biological Resources, and Public Access.

Maps provided at each scoping meeting included:

- Agua Fria National Monument base map
- Agua Fria National Monument Public Access

- Resource Management Planning Areas
- Biological Resources: Grazing, Riparian, Wildlife and Watershed Management
- Land Tenure Decision Status
- Minerals
- Public Access and Recreation, and
- Transportation and Utilities.

The formal portion of the scoping meeting followed the informal viewing of exhibits. After a brief introduction, representatives of BLM and the consulting firm of Jones & Stokes spent approximately 30 minutes discussing the purpose and need for the plans. Discussions also covered plan development and environmental review processes, in addition to relevant timelines. The remaining hour was available for public comment. As individuals signed in on arrival at each meeting, they were asked to fill out speaker cards if they wished to speak during the oral comment period. Individuals were then called upon to speak in the order in which they filled out a speaker card. All comments were transcribed onto a flip chart during the meeting and were recorded via tape recorder.

Spoken comments along with those submitted via electronic mail and standard mail were entered into an analytic database.

Agency Coordination

Agencies were given the opportunity to comment as part of the scoping process. On November 26, 2002, a letter was sent by the acting BLM PFO Manager to state, federal, and local agencies requesting attendance at a meeting to receive a presentation and discuss potential scoping issues with BLM and Jones & Stokes staff. On December 19, 2002, a meeting was held at BLM National Training Center in Phoenix. Agencies that attended this meeting are listed in Table 3.

Table 3. Meeting Attendees with Interests in Agua Fria & Bradshaw-Harquahala

Federal Highway Administration	City of Phoenix Planning Department
Tonto National Forest	Maricopa County Sheriff's Department
Arizona Department of Transportation, Environmental Planning Group	Arizona Department of Transportation, Transportation Planning Division
Arizona Game and Fish Department	Maricopa County Department of Transportation
Maricopa County Parks and Recreation	Maricopa County Planning Department

After a brief introduction, representatives of BLM and Jones & Stokes spent approximately 30 minutes discussing the purpose and need for the RMPs and associated EIS. A general question and answer period followed. Questions generally revolved around the planning process, though representatives from the

Tonto National Forest did provide some insight into their own ongoing Trail Management Program. All agencies were then encouraged to provide written comment by the December 30, 2002 deadline.

Cooperating Agencies

CEQ regulations contained in 40 CFR 1501.6 and 1508.5 implement the NEPA mandate that federal agencies responsible for preparing NEPA analysis and documentation do so “in cooperation with State and local governments” and other agencies with jurisdiction by law or special expertise (42 USC 4331(a), 4332(2)). In support of this mandate, the PFO held a cooperating agency workshop on October 30th, 2002, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the BLM Arizona State Office. The purpose of the workshop was to enable potential cooperators to meet each other, discuss BLM’s planning process and the meaning of cooperating agency status, and begin developing the Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) that are required for entities to become formal cooperators in BLM’s planning process. The meeting focused on several planning areas throughout Arizona, including both the Agua Fria National Monument and Bradshaw-Harquahala planning areas.

The morning session included a presentation and discussion of BLM’s planning process, cooperating agency status, and a discussion regarding collaborative planning. The afternoon session was an informal question and answer session, with emphasis on the difference between an agency being a cooperator versus a collaborator, and the responsibilities associated with each role. Agencies that attended this meeting are listed in Table 4.

Table 4. Cooperating Workshop Attendees with Interests in Agua Fria & Bradshaw-Harquahala

Arizona Game and Fish Department	BLM Phoenix Field Office
Arizona State Land Department	Maricopa County – Planning & Development
Air Force Regional Environmental Office	Yavapai County
Immigration and Naturalization Office	City of Phoenix – Parks and Recreation Department
Arizona Department of Transportation	U.S. Forest Service – Prescott National Forest
Luke Air Force Base	U.S. Forest Service – Tonto National Forest
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	City of Peoria

BLM is currently working with the Arizona State Land Department, Arizona Department of Transportation, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Maricopa County, Yavapai County, City of Phoenix, City of Peoria, and Town of Wickenburg to establish cooperating agency status agreements. Additionally, Tonto National Forest and Prescott National Forest are working together to develop a joint MOU. A cooperating agency status agreement template has been sent to some agencies that have not yet replied.

Tribal Consultations

The PFO Manager sent letters on May 10, 2002, to initiate the tribal consultation process with tribes who have oral traditions or cultural concerns relating to the planning areas, or who are documented to have occupied or used them during historic times. These tribes include: the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, the Yavapai-Prescott Tribe, the Yavapai-Apache Indian Community (Camp Verde), the Hopi Tribe, the Gila River Indian Community, the Colorado River Indian Tribes, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, the Ak-Chin Indian Community, the Tohono O'odham Nation, and the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe.

A meeting was held on June 28, 2002 in Maricopa, Arizona, at the Ak-Chin tribal headquarters with the Cultural Resources Committee of the Four Southern Tribes (the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, the Gila River Indian Community, the Ak-Chin Indian Community, and the Tohono O'odham Nation). Approximately 25 people were in attendance. BLM gave a presentation on the land use planning process for the Agua Fria National Monument and the Bradshaw-Harquahala planning area. Several tribal issues unrelated to the current BLM planning process were on the agenda, and the tribes' primary focus for BLM issues was the Sonoran Desert National Monument.

PFO staff also met with the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office staff on August 21, 2002 at the Hopi Tribal Government Complex, located in Kykotsmobi, Arizona. The consultation meeting lasted approximately 2 hours. The focus of the meeting was to discuss cultural resource issues as they relate to the preparation of the RMPs. Hopi staff concluded that continuing with typical consultation practices is appropriate and that they did not feel entering into a cooperating agency status agreement was necessary. Hopi staff stated that their primary concern is the protection of archaeological sites and the placing of restrictions on land uses so as to protect those sites. Other concerns included the BLM reburial policy and archaeological testing or data recovery, as it is associated with land use proposals.

In conjunction with tribal consultation, representative and elders from the Salt River Pima-Maricopa and Ak-Chin communities toured the Agua Fria National Monument on November 20, 2002. The tribal representatives emphasized the importance of protecting the archaeological sites within the Monument. Furthermore, they expressed concerns about disturbing sites either through interpretive development or scientific excavations, and stated a preference that artifacts not be removed from sites.

BLM will continue to consult with Indian tribes throughout the planning process.

Issue Summary

Collection of Comments

All scoping comments for the two planning areas were received or postmarked by November 15, 2002. BLM received 2,712 individual written comments¹ and 364 oral comments recorded from the public meetings. Of the total 3,076 written and oral comments received throughout the scoping process, 38% came in the form of completed planning worksheets, 15% as letters, 12% as oral comments recorded on meeting flip charts, 20% as emails, and 15% that were recorded as “other.” The “other” category included signed petitions as well as formatted template letters from organized stakeholder groups.

Comments were also considered based on geographical location of the respondent. A detailed discussion of issues, identified by community areas located within the planning areas, is included in a later section of this report.

Decisions Anticipated to be Made

Issues Considered but Not Further Addressed

Once all comments were received and documented, BLM assigned a planning classification to each issue, consistent with the procedures described in the published NOI. These classifications detail which public issues addressed by the public will be resolved through this planning effort and which issues will not. Comments under Category “A” are issues that will be addressed in either the Agua Fria National Monument RMP or the Bradshaw-Harquahala RMP. Category “B” contains issues that will be resolved through policy or administrative actions. Category “C” represents issues the PFO can address independent of this planning effort and/or issues the PFO is already actively working on. Category “D” denotes issues that are beyond the scope of the current plans. Actual tables are shown in the pertinent sections to follow. Examples of each category are depicted in Table 5.

Table 5. Examples of Planning Classifications

Planning Classification	Example Issue
A	Prevent grazing in areas that have significant cultural resources
B	Increase access for the handicapped
C	Increase law enforcement efforts
D	Expand wilderness designations

¹ These 2,712 written comments were contained in submissions from more than 900 individuals and groups. Most submissions contained multiple comments.

BLM recognizes that not every specific comment received throughout the public scoping process received individual attention. The focus of this report was to thoroughly review the comments and, based on this review, develop overarching themes in order to develop a list of possible alternatives based on public, BLM, and collaborative and cooperative agency input. Relevant details and summaries of individual comments and related planning categories are discussed in each section.

BLM received a number of comments that were considered in this analysis but, for various reasons, could not be addressed in this current planning effort. These are identified, along with the rationale for their not being addressed further, in the following sections.

Existing Management to be Carried Forward

Existing management strategies, plans, and techniques are currently being evaluated. Once this examination is complete, the appropriate existing management policies and procedures will be carried forward into the new RMPs. The existing management policies will be detailed in a separate document.

Planning Criteria

The planning criteria shape the planning process through inventory and data collection, formulation of alternatives, analysis of effects, and identification of the preferred alternative. Criteria are structured by interpretation of various laws and regulations by the PFO; the state, county and federal agencies; Indian tribes; and the public.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 established a nationwide public land policy. Under FLPMA, BLM is directed to manage public lands for multiple uses and to protect natural resources. Section 202 of FLPMA (43 USC 1712) stipulates that development and revision of land use plans must:

- use and observe the principles of multiple use and sustained yield;
- use a systematic interdisciplinary approach to achieve integrated consideration of physical, biological, economic, and other sciences;
- give priority to the designation and protection of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs);
- rely, to the extent it is available, on the inventory of the public lands, their resources, and other values;
- consider present and potential uses of the public lands;

- consider the relative scarcity of the values involved and the availability of alternative means (including recycling) and sites for realization of those values;
- weigh long-term benefits to the public against short-term benefits;
- provide for compliance with applicable pollution control laws, including state and federal air, water, noise, or other pollution standards or implementation plans;
- coordinate, to the extent consistent with public laws, resource planning and management programs of other federal departments and agencies, states and local governments, and Indian tribes;
- provide the public with early notices and frequent opportunities to participate in the preparation of plans; and manage the public lands to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the lands.

The following general planning criteria derived from the BLM “Preparation Plan for the Bradshaw Foothills and Agua Fria Monument” and other BLM sources will apply to all resource areas:

- Plans will be completed in compliance with the FLPMA, the Endangered Species Act (ESA), NEPA, and all other relevant federal laws and executive orders (including wilderness legislation and the management policies of BLM).
- The planning team will work collaboratively with the State of Arizona, Maricopa, Yavapai, and La Paz Counties, tribal governments, municipal governments, other federal agencies, and all other interested groups, agencies and individuals.
- Decisions contained in the plan will strive to be compatible with existing plans and policies of adjacent local, state, tribal and federal agencies, and consistent with federal laws and regulations.
- The Bradshaw-Harquahala and Agua Fria National Monument RMPs will replace and supersede all other BLM land use plans for the lands included within the planning areas. These land use plans include the 1988 *Phoenix Resource Management Plan* and the 1983 *Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan*.
- The planning process will include a combined EIS that will comply with NEPA, as well as Records of Decision (ROD) issued for each RMP.
- Previous planning decisions found to still be applicable will be carried forward into the new plans. BLM will also use information developed and management alternatives proposed in previous studies of the planning area that are still valid.
- Native American tribal consultations will be conducted in accordance with BLM policy and tribal concerns will be given due consideration. The planning process will include the consideration of any impacts on Indian trust assets.

- Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will take place throughout the planning process in accordance with the August 30, 2000 Memorandum of Agreement on Endangered Species Act Section 7 Programmatic Consultation and Coordination among BLM, USFS, NMFS and the FWS.
- Coordination with the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will be conducted throughout the planning process.
- The plans will be written with the recognition of the State's authority to manage wildlife, including hunting and fishing, within the planning area. Wildlife management will be consistent with the existing Master MOU between the State of Arizona, Arizona Game and Fish Commission, and BLM.
- The plans will set forth a framework for managing recreational and commercial activities in order to maintain existing natural landscapes and to provide for the enjoyment and safety of the visiting public.
- The lifestyles of area residents, including use of grazing allotments, hunting, and backcountry motorized use and recreation, will be considered in the plans.
- Any lands or interests therein that are located within the planning area boundary and are acquired by BLM will be managed consistently with these plans, subject to any constraints associated with the acquisition.
- The plans may address transportation and access for these public lands. If so, all areas will be identified as open, closed, or limited to designated roads for off-road vehicle traffic. Within the Agua Fria National Monument and in other areas identified in the plan, motorized and mechanized routes may be designated.
- The plans will recognize all valid existing land management rights.
- Federal Geographic Data Committee standards and other applicable BLM standards will be followed in the development, presentation, and storage of mapping-related data.
- The plan will contain and/or reduce invasive species and noxious weed infestations on BLM-administered land using an integrated pest management approach. Proposed activities will be assessed to determine whether or not they would contribute to the introduction or spread of noxious weeds or invasive species in accordance with the federal Noxious Weed Act and Executive Order 13112. Invasive species and noxious weed control will be considered in the plans in accordance with the integrated weed management guidelines and design features identified in national, state, and local BLM noxious weed control programs and policies.
- Existing ACECs selected for continued management as ACECs would be managed generally in accordance with site-specific ACEC management plans or guidelines equivalent to those in the current land use management plans.

- ACECs will be designated in those areas where special management attention is required to protect historical, cultural, or scenic values, natural resources or processes, or human life and safety.
- Management requirements for ACECs will be identified in the plans.
- The plans will apply the April 1997 *Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration* to all authorized activities.
- The plans will be consistent with the June 1996 MOU between the Tonto National Forest, Prescott National Forest, and BLM concerning management of lands and resources in the Agua Fria grassland ecosystem, where compatible with the Agua Fria National Monument Proclamation.
- The plans will be consistent with and implement the policies outlined in the *Desert Tortoise Habitat Management on the Public Lands: A Rangeland Plan* (November 1988) and the *Strategy for Desert Tortoise Habitat Management on the Public Lands in Arizona* (October 1990).
- Public health and safety will be a consideration in any decision made in the plans. Natural and cultural features that present a threat to public health and safety will be mitigated if possible.
- The land exchange agreement signed November 2000 between former Interior Secretary Babbitt and former Governor Hull will be addressed in the plans.

The following planning criteria relate specifically to the Agua Fria National Monument:

- The Agua Fria RMP will establish the guidance upon which BLM will manage the Agua Fria National Monument.
- The Agua Fria RMP will meet the requirements of the January 11, 2000 Agua Fria National Monument Proclamation to protect the objects of geological, paleontological, archaeological, historic, and biological value within the Monument.
- The Agua Fria RMP will address how to conduct the analyses necessary to determine what quantity of water will be needed for Monument purposes for the eventual filing of a Federal Reserved Water Right, as provided for in the Proclamation.
- The Agua Fria RMP will not address Monument boundary adjustments or proposals to change the Proclamation.
- Due to the desire to maintain the existing natural and cultural landscapes of the Agua Fria National Monument, any visitor facilities will need to be located near the Monument boundary or in neighboring communities. Other facilities may be located within the Monument, but they will be placed in unobtrusive locations.

- In accordance with the Proclamation, lands and interests within the Monument not currently under federal ownership may be recommended to Congress for future purchase and addition to the Monument.

For each of the planning areas, additional relevant planning criteria will be listed as appropriate.

Data Summary/Data Gaps

To perform thorough analyses, data must be acquired for each area of interest. Much of the data for this planning effort was obtained in a geographic information system (GIS) format, which is a software system used to analyze data in a spatial environment, usually resulting in the production of a map. This format allows for both a qualitative as well as a quantitative approach in the analysis. Maps can be created to provide a visual reference of quantitative data, such as large numbers of communication sites, wells, and differing soil types, wildlife, or biological regions.

The BLM PFO has acquired data relating to the Agua Fria National Monument and the Bradshaw-Harquahala planning areas in the following categories: geology, hydrology, transportation, biology (wildlife and wilderness areas), fire management, range management, land management, recreation, and utilities. Tables listing current existing data and currently incomplete data sets are included in this report as Appendix D.

Summary of Future Steps in the Planning Process

The next phase of the planning process is to develop management alternatives based on comments provided and management concerns identified by BLM. These alternatives will focus on meeting the goals and addressing the issues identified during the scoping phase. A series of public workshops will be scheduled to discuss the alternatives for the planning area. Volume 2 of the Planning Bulletin, as described above under "Scoping Process," will be mailed to inform the public of the meeting schedule. The Planning Bulletin will also include an executive summary of this scoping report. The meetings are scheduled to begin in March 2003. The meetings will be informal, open house meetings with the public, interested groups, and agencies to discuss alternatives and ensure all necessary issues are addressed. A public response period will follow the series of meetings; public comments will be accepted for a period of 30 days following the last public workshop.

Upon completion, the draft Agua Fria National Monument RMP, the draft Bradshaw-Harquahala RMP, and the combined draft EIS will be made available to the public. A notice will be published in the *Federal Register* and public comments will be accepted for a 90-day period. Public meetings will be scheduled during the comment period. All of the previously noted

information will be posted on the BLM website regarding availability of the draft plans and the draft EIS, in addition to pertinent dates regarding solicitation for public comments.

Both of the final RMPs and the final EIS will be sent to those individuals, groups, and agencies on the mailing list, in addition to everyone who participated in the planning process. The availability of the plan will be advertised and informal contact with all interested communities will continue. A notice explaining the protest period of 30 days will also be posted.

During a Governor's consistency review of 60 days, informal public input will continue to be welcomed. Individuals who protest will receive responses if appropriate. A notice will be published in the *Federal Register* requesting comments on significant changes made as a result of protest, if necessary.

The approved final RMPs and final EIS will be advertised via news articles, email, BLM's website, and a transmittal of letters detailing the availability of the approved plans.

Planning Issues and Management Concerns Identified during Scoping

The most important step in developing an RMP is to identify relevant issues and concerns. An issue is defined as an opportunity, conflict, or problem regarding the use or management of public lands. Comments received during the scoping process were read, evaluated, and manually entered into separate issue and sub-issue categories in a computer database. These issue and sub-issue categories were developed as a necessary step to allow evaluation of the entire range of comments received. The sections below describe each issue and sub-issue, as well as relevant agency concerns, management concerns, and specific planning criteria. The issue categories below are presented in an order based on the number of comments that were received (i.e., issues that elicited the highest number of comments are present first, with the other issues following in descending order).

In addition to issue and sub-issue categories, BLM (as noted previously under "Decisions Anticipated to be Made") assigned a planning classification to each sub-issue. These classifications identify which public issues will be resolved through this planning effort and which issues will not. Comments under Category "A" are issues that will be addressed in either the Agua Fria National Monument RMP or the Bradshaw-Harquahala RMP. Category "B" contains issues that will be resolved through policy or administrative actions. Category "C" represents issues the PFO can address independent of this planning effort and/or issues the PFO is already actively working on. Category "D" denotes issues that are beyond the scope of the current plans.

Issues to Address – Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area

Figure 2, below, illustrates the distribution by issue of all comments received for the Bradshaw-Harquahala planning area. This distribution was used to determine the order by which issues are presented and discussed in the text sections below. A single comment was received expressing dissatisfaction with the Wild Horse and Burro Program, presented below as Issue BH-12, but this lone comment was not statistically significant enough to appear on this graph.

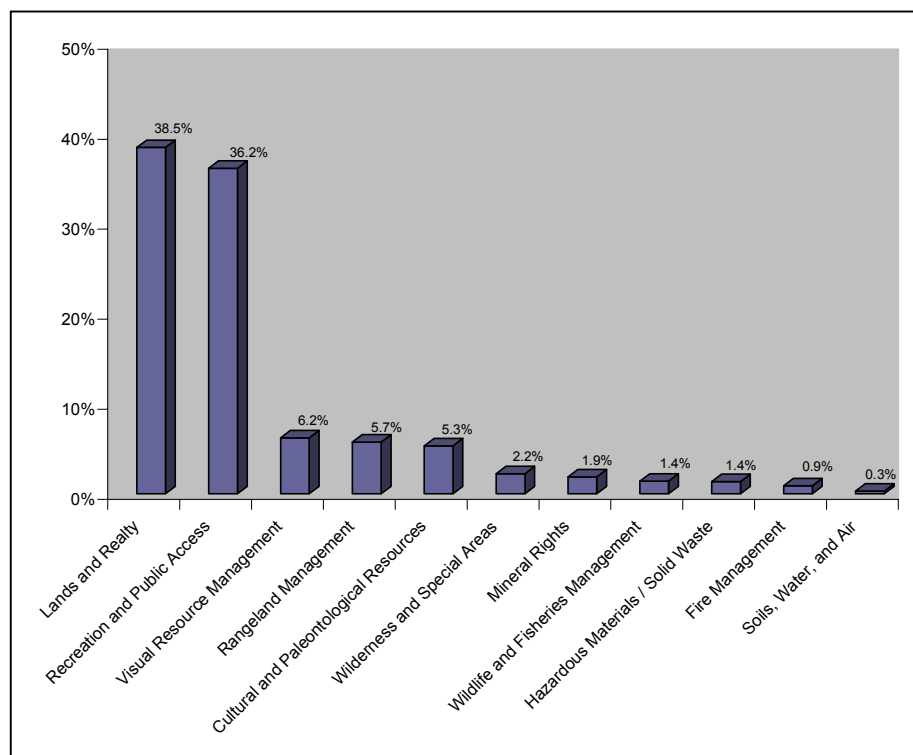


Figure 2. Public Response by Issue – Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area

Issue BH-1: Lands and Realty

The PFO administers approximately 967,000 acres of public land within the planning area, most of which is available for recreational and public use. Recreational uses include, but are not limited to, hiking, biking, shooting, and camping. Public uses include, but are not limited to, rights-of-way for transportation, utility, and communication corridors, mines, and grazing allotments. “Lands and Realty” includes the sub-issues of “Land Tenure” and “Transportation Corridors.”

Land Tenure

Land tenure (property rights) adjustments are made through both acquisitions and disposals. Acquisitions may occur by land purchase, donation, exchange, or transfer of jurisdiction from one federal agency to another. Disposals may occur by sale, exchange, and transfer of jurisdiction from one federal agency to another. Lands identified as excess to the needs of the public and government, or more suited to private ownership, are sometimes offered for sale under BLM's legal authority.

Public Concerns

The subject that received the largest number of public comments for the Bradshaw-Harquahala planning area is "Land Tenure." The most frequent comments and associated planning classifications are summarized in Table BH-1.

Table BH-1. Land Tenure

Comment	Planning Classification ¹			
	A	B	C	D
Remove BLM lands from the disposal list	✓			
Stop urban sprawl/No new development	✓			
Restrict development to prevent depletion of groundwater	✓			
Lands should be managed to preserve cultural and biological resources	✓			
¹ Issues are classified as follows: 'A'—will be addressed in the current Resource Management Plan; 'B'—will be resolved through policy or administrative actions; 'C'—are already being addressed or will be addressed independent of the current planning effort; 'D'—determined to be beyond the scope of current planning.				

The majority of comments under this sub-issue specified removing land from the disposal list. Most comments were in reference to an area of land listed for possible exchange in the Mayer, Dewey, and Humboldt area. Several individuals felt that "public lands should remain in public hands." Respondents also expressed concern of a threat of overdevelopment in this area, and did not want to see more land turned over to developers. Other comments centered on concerns regarding the amount of available water and preservation of existing resources.

As shown in Table BH-1, all the comments documented for "Land Tenure" are issues that BLM will address during the current planning effort.

Agency Concerns

- Prescott National Forest is interested in opportunities for U.S. Forest Service management of specific parcels of adjacent BLM lands to allow extension of the Black Canyon Trail from BLM land onto Forest Service land.

Management Concerns

- The potential for acquisition and management of lands managed by the Arizona State Land Department shall be assessed.
- The availability of land for waste disposal facilities shall be assessed.

Additional Planning Criteria

- BLM will identify lands that will be retained in federal ownership for split estate, lands that will be made available for disposal (sale, exchange [including split estate]), and lands that will be made available for recreation and public purposes and classify them under the Taylor Grazing Act where appropriate.
- Recent and/or pending litigation has temporarily stopped BLM from terminating or modifying land withdrawal agreements (i.e., lands withdrawn from public use, but still managed by BLM).
- BLM will identify lands that are to be withdrawn from public use, thus prohibiting mineral location, sales, leasing, and land disposal (43 CFR 2300).
- Within the RMP, BLM will include a plan that will provide guidance for future management of land tenure issues.
- Decisions to acquire lands will be based on public benefits, management considerations, and public access needs.
- All land tenure adjustments will consider the effect on the mineral estate. If the lands do not have mineral potential, the mineral interest would normally be transferred simultaneously with the surface lands.
- Public participation will be included in the identification of actions needed to implement RMP-level land tenure decisions.
- BLM will identify right-of-way corridors, avoidance areas, and exclusion areas, along with any general terms and conditions that may apply (43 CFR 2800).
- BLM will identify where and under what circumstances land use authorizations, such as major leases, rights-of-way grants, and land use permits, may be granted (43 CFR 2920).
- BLM will identify exchange agreements, land sale plans, approval of leases and permits, and all subsequent phases of case processing.
- BLM will complete authorization notices for those actions that require classification or other notices including sales, exchanges, state selections, Recreation and Public Purposes Act sales and lease agreements, agricultural entries, and other land disposal actions.

Transportation and Utility Corridors

Right-of-way corridors will be designated in the RMP, in accordance with the standards for right-of-way planning as outlined in BLM Manual 2801. Corridor planning refers to the large-scale moving of vehicles, fuel, power, water, and

signals over BLM lands. It does not refer to the network required to distribute those resources to individual communities or properties. The types of facilities subject to the standards include electric transmission facilities; gas pipelines; significant water viaducts; railroads; telecommunication sites; and interstate, federal, and state highways, as well as local roads.

The philosophy underlying the designation of corridors includes a recognition that advance planning of an appropriate transportation and utility system benefits the public, industry, and the environment. Once corridors are designated, transportation and utility providers will be asked to limit planned specific facilities to stay within those known or preferred corridors. A corridor may be deemed suitable for use by some types of facilities and not others. Providers must apply for and receive approval of right-of-way for each specific facility.

The existing system of corridors was identified in the Western Regional Corridor Study (Western Utility Group 1992, updated 2002). There are rights-of-way for specific, existing facilities within many of those corridors. Corridors containing existing rights-of-way will be retained in the RMP. Designated corridors not containing existing facilities will be reviewed during the planning process. Additional new areas may be considered for identification as corridors during the planning process.

Areas with special or sensitive resources will be avoided when planning new corridor designations during the planning process. Such areas include ACECs, Research Natural Areas (RNAs), Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) and other areas having sufficiently unique characteristics to exclude them as part of a corridor.

Public Concerns

- No public concerns were documented for “Transportation and Utility Corridors.”

Agency Concerns

- No agency concerns were documented for “Transportation and Utility Corridors.”

Management Concerns

- In an effort to reduce adverse environmental impacts to sensitive resources, various routes for major roads and utilities will be evaluated. BLM will identify which lands will be made available for transportation and utility corridors.
- Through the planning process, BLM will identify which lands will be made available for communication sites. With urban interface becoming a critical issue, BLM will address the needs of current and future technologies when making planning decisions for lands that have previously been closed due to visual impacts.

Additional Planning Criteria

- Existing transportation and utility corridors may be designated (without review) for any potential additional compatible uses. In the event there is high interest from the public, the BLM will notify the public and stakeholders.

Issue BH-2: Recreation and Public Access

Recreation and public access have become issues of primary focus for BLM during the RMP planning effort. BLM's management guidance requires that recreational use and access be provided in a way that encourages users to conserve and protect natural and cultural resources found on public lands.

Physical access to these lands for recreational purposes is provided by a system of public and agency roads and trails. Generally, a public road is any federal or state highway or county road administered by the state or county. Concurrently with this RMP effort, BLM is completing a Route Inventory (RI) of the existing motorized recreational transportation system. Once complete, the RI will be used to determine management objectives, including the management of off-highway vehicles (OHVs).

Although generally open to the public, agency officials may restrict or control the level of recreational use on these lands by limiting access to roads and trails. Restrictions may be imposed to protect sensitive or critical resources or to meet specific management needs.

This planning effort will address how BLM lands in the Bradshaw-Harquahala planning area will be utilized for recreational purposes. "Recreation and Public Access" includes the sub-issues of "General Recreation," "Off-Highway Vehicles," "Transportation Network," and "Law Enforcement." Including all of the aforementioned sub-issues, "Recreation and Public Access" received the second-highest number of comments from the public.

General Recreation

BLM's overall mission includes responsibility for development and maintenance of physical access to the public lands the agency manages for recreational purposes. To this end, BLM develops and manages recreational facilities such as campgrounds, information kiosks, and trails (motorized and non-motorized).

Public Concerns

BLM is assessing the best solutions to preserving the quality of public lands in the Bradshaw-Harquahala planning area while meeting current and future recreational demands. Comments concerning "General Recreation" and associated planning classifications are summarized in Table BH-2.

Table BH-2. General Recreation

Comment	Planning Classification ¹			
	A	B	C	D
Allow for recreational use	✓			
Designated open space and trails should be marked/posted as such			✓	
Establish educational programs for all users of public lands			✓	
Develop multiple use areas	✓			
Trails should be better maintained to encourage users to stay on trails			✓	
¹ Issues are classified as follows: 'A'—will be addressed in the current Resource Management Plan; 'B'—will be resolved through policy or administrative actions; 'C'—are already being addressed or will be addressed independent of the current planning effort; 'D'—determined to be beyond the scope of current planning.				

The majority of individual comments focused on the need to make all BLM lands available for recreational use. Recreational opportunities mentioned included hiking, horseback riding, shooting, camping, and multi-use areas. Based on the public comments received, the prevailing public attitude seems to be that public lands must continue to be made available for public use.

Several respondents stated that although they do not use the land, they still feel the land should remain available for public use.

Several of the issues raised by the public are issues that are being addressed independent of this planning effort and will therefore not be further analyzed in this RMP planning process. These issues include a request that BLM designate more open space and trails. Also raised was the need for BLM to improve the way trails are marked and maintained, and the need for BLM to establish educational programs. These items are, or will be, identified as action needs in the PFO's internal annual work plan.

Agency Concerns

- Prescott National Forest is interested in exploring management opportunities for joint recreation and special use areas, shared roads/trails, and “seamless management.”

Management Concerns

- Visitor use should be examined to determine how to best manage the consumptive uses of visitors while protecting the resources within the planning area.
- Identify current points of public and administrative access. Review impacts associated with the existing access and provide management recommendations on maintenance of existing access, improvements to existing access points, closure of existing access points, and opening of new access points. This includes areas where the federal government owns the mineral estates but perhaps not the surface estates.

- Recreational shooting will be evaluated in recreation use areas and dump areas.

Additional Planning Criteria

- Recreation management objectives will be defined in the planning process and will be based on recreational opportunities as well as compatibility with other resource management objectives.
- Provide a wide range of developed and dispersed recreation opportunities that contribute to meeting projected recreation demand within the planning area.
- Identify capacity and use limits of Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) in order to develop management criteria for recreational resources in these areas.
- FLPMA, 43 USC 1701, Section (a)(8).

Off-Highway Vehicles

As the population of Arizona has grown, so has the use of various types of OHVs. OHV use is permitted, with restrictions, on most lands in Arizona that are administered by BLM. These areas generally restrict OHV use to certain times of the year, or within certain areas, and/or to certain vehicle types.

BLM has also designated areas that are closed to OHV use. These areas include designated wilderness areas and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs).

Public Concerns

The public's concerns focused on the level of OHV usage allowed on public lands. Comments received regarding "Off-Highway Vehicles" and associated planning classifications are summarized in Table BH-3.

Table BH-3. Off-Highway Vehicles

Comment	Planning Classification ¹			
	A	B	C	D
Maintain and allow OHV usage on existing trails	✓			
Restrict and limit OHV usage on BLM lands	✓			
Establish (or enforce where appropriate) rules for use of OHVs			✓	
Establish educational programs for OHV users			✓	
Use volunteer help from OHV-affiliated groups			✓	
¹ Issues are classified as follows: 'A'—will be addressed in the current Resource Management Plan; 'B'—will be resolved through policy or administrative actions; 'C'—are already being addressed or will be addressed independent of the current planning effort; 'D'—determined to be beyond the scope of current planning.				

Individuals were evenly divided on the issues of OHV use and management. Some wanted to see the current level of OHV usage maintained or even increased, while others requested that restrictions be imposed. A large number of comments on this issue were received from individuals affiliated with OHV user organizations. BLM will be addressing the management of OHV use in the Bradshaw-Harquahala area in this planning effort.

Comments related to this issue ranged from mentioning the destruction that OHVs have caused to the land and the lack of respect by users for the native habitat and associated wildlife, to remarks acknowledging that although some OHV users can be destructive, those individuals should not prohibit others from recreating on public lands.

A number of the comments received requested that rules be established and/or enforced for all OHV users on BLM-managed lands, while others suggested that although individuals are not satisfied with current management practices, a compromise may be developed so usage is not altogether restricted, but rather regulated. Additional comments were related to development of OHV educational programs and the use of volunteer help from members of OHV-affiliated groups. These comments were determined by BLM to involve issues outside the scope of the current planning effort.

Agency Concerns

- No agency concerns were documented for “Off-Highway Vehicles.”

Management Concerns

- Increased OHV use on public lands has provided for greater motorized access into areas that formerly supported more solitary types of uses.
- Conflicts may exist between motorized OHV users and non-motorized users.
- Management will determine through a public process which roads will remain open, limited (seasonally open/closed), or closed.

Additional Planning Criteria

- PFO Policy, 43 CFR 8340 and H-8340-1, and Executive Order 11644 as amended by 11989.

Transportation Network

BLM plans to develop a comprehensive transportation network that addresses the needs of the public while preserving cultural and natural resources. Taking into consideration all of the different types of recreational opportunities available, and the abundant demand for roads and trails to accommodate OHV use, development of a transportation network has been identified as one of BLM’s greatest challenges. The Agua Fria National Monument and Bradshaw-Harquahala RMPs will address this challenge by designating a motorized route network and establishing actions for future non-motorized trail planning.

Public Concerns

The documented comments regarding “Transportation Network” and associated planning classifications are summarized in Table BH-4.

Table BH-4. Transportation Network

Comment	Planning Classification ¹			
	A	B	C	D
Maintain public access	✓			
Designations should also be made for primitive areas & motorized areas	✓			
Close and rehabilitate all vehicle routes that threaten cultural and biological resources	✓			
Create an environmentally sensitive transportation system	✓			
Allow public access for non-motorized modes only	✓			
¹ Issues are classified as follows: ‘A’—will be addressed in the current Resource Management Plan; ‘B’—will be resolved through policy or administrative actions; ‘C’—are already being addressed or will be addressed independent of the current planning effort; ‘D’—determined to be beyond the scope of current planning.				

The focal point for this issue was the maintenance of public access to BLM lands. Several of these comments came from individuals associated with a hang gliding association. Emails were received from hang gliders across the country, all of whom shared a concern for an area outside of Yarnell that contains an exceptional hang gliding launch site. If the road is closed, the launch site will no longer be accessible to association members.

Designations of access points will be addressed in the RMP. BLM will also address the designation of primitive and motorized areas, as well as decide which vehicle routes will be maintained and which will be closed. These planning decisions are integral to creating an environmentally sensitive transportation system in BLM-administered portions of the Bradshaw-Harquahala planning area.

Agency Concerns

- Arizona Game and Fish Department stated that they should be directly involved during the route planning and designation process so that they may identify important areas for fish and wildlife resources and ensure appropriate access for wildlife-related recreation.
- Prescott National Forest is interested in exploring joint management opportunities for shared roads and trails.

Management Concerns

- Management will determine through a public process which roads will remain open, limited (seasonally open/closed), or closed.
- Maintain public access where needed.

- Provide for an environmentally sensitive transportation system that includes alternative types of use and identification of potential corridors.
- Allow for multiple use, where appropriate.
- Coordinate with other public entities to assure continued access and to further identify access issues and concerns.
- Needs of disabled people will be incorporated into access plans.
- Recreation sprawl may result with increased access.
- Increased access may impact visitor experiences and expectations.
- Increased access may threaten cultural and biological resources.

Additional Planning Criteria

- The plan will include identification and management of transportation and access needs for motorized and non-motorized uses.
- The following route system designations will be applied to the proposed transportation system: “Open to Cross-Country Traffic,” “Closed to Vehicle Traffic,” and “Traffic Limited to Designated Routes.”
- The plan may designate a network of motorized routes.
- The BLM route inventory will provide a basis for considering alternative ways to manage vehicle routes.

Law Enforcement

The passage of FLPMA in 1976 granted the Secretary of the Interior the ability to authorize “Federal personnel or appropriate local officials to carry out law enforcement responsibilities with respect to the public lands and their resources” (43 USC 1733, Section 303). Identified as a problem throughout the scoping process was the lack of law enforcement presence within the planning area and the inability of BLM to enforce existing regulations, especially with regard to OHV use and illegal trash dumping. Unfortunately, budget constraints have thus far prohibited BLM from actively responding to this growing concern.

Public Concerns

The documented comments regarding “Law Enforcement” and their associated planning classifications are summarized in Table BH-5.

Table BH-5. Law Enforcement

Comment	Planning Classification ¹			
	A	B	C	D
Increase law enforcement efforts			✓	
Increase preventative measures to prevent vandalism			✓	
¹ Issues are classified as follows: 'A'—will be addressed in the current Resource Management Plan; 'B'—will be resolved through policy or administrative actions; 'C'—are already being addressed or will be addressed independent of the current planning effort; 'D'—determined to be beyond the scope of current planning.				

Comments received on this issue were generally stated as a request that BLM increase law enforcement efforts in the planning area. Increasing law enforcement efforts in the planning area is a management decision that can be made independently of this RMP effort; it is therefore not an action contingent on this planning effort and thus will not be included as an action item within the new RMP. Several public comments specifically identify protection of cultural sites as a reason for needing an increased law enforcement presence in the planning area. The remaining comments focused on efforts to curtail OHV-related problems. Respondents included non-affiliated individuals, members of the ranching community, trails and archaeological affiliations, and various non-profit organizations.

Agency Concerns

- No agency concerns were documented for “Law Enforcement.”

Management Concerns

- Identify a way to quantify the extent that BLM lands are being used for illegal trash dumping. Identify management actions that could reduce or stop this illegal and objectionable behavior. Identify the public health and safety threats associated with this illegal dumping.
- Identify if other public health and safety threats associated with lack of law enforcement exist in the planning area.
- Promote a safe environment for the users of public lands and recreation sites.
- Explore ways to determine the number of desired law enforcement rangers and/or patrols during high use seasons.
- Enforce all federal laws and regulations pertaining to use, management and development of the public lands and their resources.
- Maintain all law enforcement agreements with federal, state and county agencies.
- Determine the number of rangers required to protect archaeological resources.
- Evaluate ways to enforce all motorized and non-motorized vehicle laws.

Additional Planning Criteria

- 43 USC 1733, Section 303.

Issue BH-3: Visual Resource Management

The fast-paced urban growth of Maricopa and Yavapai Counties has increased public awareness of open space and the scenic quality of the adjacent public lands. Although most of the urban growth that is anticipated to occur over the projected 20-year life of the Bradshaw-Harquahala RMP will take place on private and State Trust land, BLM can anticipate that infrastructure needs associated with this growth, such as highway construction and powerline alignments, will increasingly impact public lands. With the urban growth of these counties, the idea of open space has pushed itself to the forefront of public concerns, and scenic quality is a tangible characteristic of open space.

Public Concerns

Visual Resource Management (VRM)-related issues received the third-highest number of comments for the Bradshaw-Harquahala planning area. The documented comments regarding “Visual Resource Management” and associated planning classifications are summarized in Table BH-6.

Table BH-6. Visual Resource Management

Comment	Planning Classification ¹			
	A	B	C	D
Land should be preserved and remain untouched	✓			
Preserve natural beauty	✓			
¹ Issues are classified as follows: ‘A’—will be addressed in the current Resource Management Plan; ‘B’—will be resolved through policy or administrative actions; ‘C’—are already being addressed or will be addressed independent of the current planning effort; ‘D’—determined to be beyond the scope of current planning.				

Most of the comments received were from individuals requesting that BLM preserve and protect the land in its natural state to the greatest degree possible. Arizona residents felt preserving the natural beauty of the land was an important point for BLM to focus on throughout the planning effort. VRM comments are integral to the BLM planning process and will be included in the RMPs.

Agency Concerns

- No agency concerns were documented for “Visual Resource Management.”

Management Concerns

- The Scenic Quality Assessment is outdated and needs revision.
- Evaluate VRM impacts from existing roads, transmission lines, and other structures within the Bradshaw-Harquahala planning area.

- BLM will develop a strategy to deal with increasing uses of dispersed camping such as the development of cluster camping, depletion of existing vegetation, and sanitary concerns/facilities; road enhancement and other amenities may be needed to provide for visitor health and safety while maintaining the natural environment and visual resources.
- Assess the impacts of wildcat dumping and littering on VRM resources.

Additional Planning Criteria

- VRM inventory will be conducted in conformance with Sections 102 (a)(8), 103 (c), 201 (a), and 505 (a) of FLPMA, as well as in accordance with accepted Bureau practices as described in BLM Manual 8400 – Visual Resource Management, BLM Manual H-8410 – Visual Resource Inventory, and BLM Manual 8431-1 – Visual Resource Contrast Rating.
- VRM objectives will be established in the RMP as prescribed in the BLM Land Use Planning Handbook H-1610-1 and the VRM manuals previously described.
- BLM Washington Office Information Bulletin 98-135 (May 27, 1998) reiterated BLM’s policy that all land use planning and environmental documents, as well as all surface-disturbing projects occurring on public lands, are to incorporate VRM considerations.

Issue BH-4: Rangeland Management

Rangeland management involves nearly all the physical and biological attributes of the land managed by BLM. These attributes include soil, water, air, flora, and fauna. Rangelands are allotted to a variety of uses, including mining, grazing, recreation, and special designation areas.

In Arizona, rangeland is managed in accordance with the 1997 *Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration*. Application of proper rangeland management standards can provide protection to watersheds, increase the quality of water supplies, as well as enhance recreation opportunities and scenic beauty. Quality rangeland also serves as vital habitat for a variety of domesticated and wild species. “Rangeland Management” includes the sub-issues of “Invasive Species,” “Grazing,” and “Riparian Habitat.”

Invasive Species

Invasive species are defined as “an alien species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health” (National Invasive Species Council 2002). In accordance with the *Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration*, BLM has a responsibility to implement policies that will minimize the negative impact invasive species have on public lands.

Public Concerns

- No public concerns were documented regarding “Invasive Species.”

Agency Concerns

- No agency concerns were documented for “Invasive Species.”

Management Concerns

- Identification, mapping and treatment of noxious weeds will continue to be a management priority within the planning area.
- Invasive wildlife species may be adversely impacting native wildlife species in some areas.
- The RMP will address the need to implement efforts to eradicate invasive wildlife species where warranted. Efforts will be coordinated with the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

Additional Planning Criteria

- *Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands in Thirteen Western States, Final Environmental Impact Statement* (May 1991).
- Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978 (43 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.)
- Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974, as amended by Section 15–Management of Undesirable Plants on Federal Lands, 1990 (PL 93-629)
- Carson-Foley Act of 1968 (PL 90-583)
- Executive Order 13112, February 3, 1999.

Grazing

It is the responsibility of BLM to develop a grazing program that establishes a balance between the needs of the ranchers and other users of public lands. By establishing such a program, BLM will see an acceleration of restoration that will improve rangeland conditions for the benefit of all.

Public Concerns

The documented comments regarding “Grazing” and associated planning classifications are summarized in Table BH-7.

Table BH-7. Grazing

Comment	Planning Classification ¹			
	A	B	C	D
Continue leases for grazing	✓			
Limit grazing	✓			
Evaluate grazing impacts			✓	
¹ Issues are classified as follows: 'A'—will be addressed in the current Resource Management Plan; 'B'—will be resolved through policy or administrative actions; 'C'—are already being addressed or will be addressed independent of the current planning effort; 'D'—determined to be beyond the scope of current planning.				

Most of the public comments received for grazing fell into three categories, from supporting the continuation of grazing to limiting the size and number of grazing leases. Specific comments also referred to the damage done to cultural resources and riparian areas when grazing is not monitored.

BLM recognizes the importance of a healthy balance between grazing and rangeland management. Using the approved Standards and Guidelines, BLM is currently completing evaluations of the impacts of grazing as part of an ongoing study not associated with this RMP effort. Because of differing project timelines, the results of this study will not be included in the RMP.

BLM will include management of the size, shape, and number of grazing allotments in the RMP planning effort.

Agency Concerns

- No agency concerns were documented for “Grazing.”

Management Concerns

- BLM will assess the possibility of retiring grazing from allotments in Wilderness Areas where there is a voluntary opportunity, or if BLM acquires the allotment.
- Re-designation of public land to other uses (that may preclude grazing) may require size and shape adjustments to current grazing allotment boundaries.
- Evaluate the maintenance of currently scheduled range improvements and determine if the maintenance will accomplish land management goals.
- Re-evaluate the grazing classification for perennial and ephemeral (i.e., seasonal) allotments.

Additional Planning Criteria

- *Eastern Arizona Grazing Environmental Impact Statement* (1987).
- *Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration* (1997).

- Stock Raising Homestead Act, 43 CFR 3833.1-2(c)(1) and 43 CFR 3814.
- Provide for livestock grazing and rangeland improvement projects in an environmentally sensitive manner consistent with resource management objectives and land use allocations.
- Proposed decisions will determine if allotments are open or closed to grazing in accordance with the Taylor Grazing Act.
- Perennial or ephemeral grazing classifications will be fully assessed at the implementation level.
- BLM will manage grazing through existing laws, regulations, and policies.
- RMP will include a strategy for ensuring that proper grazing practices are followed while preserving habitats for sensitive plant and wildlife species.
- Livestock grazing is permitted pursuant to the terms and conditions of the existing permits and leases except where modified by the Monument Proclamation.
- Appropriate best management practices will be followed to protect rangeland resources and, where necessary, to mitigate any conflicts with other uses and values.
- Identify administrative actions needed to assure compliance with existing permit/lease requirements as well as to modify permits and leases.
- Monitor and supervise grazing users and remedy unauthorized grazing use.
- The Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978.

Riparian Habitat

Riparian habitat, one of the most sensitive types of habitats, is an ecological link between water and land-based environments. Riparian habitat in Arizona is vital to the survival of numerous mammals, birds, fish, insects, reptiles, amphibians, as well as an important factor in the health of watersheds and stream courses.

Public Concerns

The documented comments regarding “Riparian Habitat” and associated planning classifications are summarized in Table BH-8.

Table BH-8. Riparian Habitat

Comment	Planning Classification ¹			
	A	B	C	D
Restrict access by livestock	✓			
Maintain waters for livestock			✓	
Protect the instream flow of the Agua Fria River	✓			
¹ Issues are classified as follows: 'A'—will be addressed in the current Resource Management Plan; 'B'—will be resolved through policy or administrative actions; 'C'—are already being addressed or will be addressed independent of the current planning effort; 'D'—determined to be beyond the scope of current planning.				

Most of the public's interest related to riparian areas centers on the issue of appropriate access for livestock. Individuals noted the occurrence of negative impacts caused to riparian areas when grazing is not closely monitored. All comments similar to those wishing implementation of restrictions that would limit access by livestock in order to protect the instream flow of the Agua Fria River are comments that will be addressed in this planning effort.

Comments that related to BLM maintaining waters for livestock are issues that are being addressed independently of this plan and will, therefore, not be further analyzed in this planning effort.

Agency Concerns

- No agency concerns were documented for "Riparian Habitat."

Management Concerns

- Evaluate the impacts from OHV use and improper livestock grazing.

Additional Planning Criteria

- Proposed activities in riparian areas, floodplains, and wetlands that provide for biodiversity, protection, and restoration will be measured against the 1997 *Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration*.
- Management activities in floodplains will be consistent with Executive Order 11988, and management activities for wetlands and riparian areas will be consistent with Executive Order 11990.

Issue BH-5: Cultural and Paleontological Resources

As defined by SHPO, "Historic preservation is the identification, management, and protection of tangible elements from the past for future generations" (Arizona State Parks, State Historic Preservation Office 2002). Archaeological sites found throughout Arizona hold evidence of more than 12,000 years of culture, land use, settlement, and exploration. Many of these cultural resources

are found on public lands. Cultural resource management involves site protection, surveys for identification and evaluation, scientific research, interpretive development, and public education. The PFO is currently assessing how and to what extent cultural resources on public lands should be protected.

Public Concerns

The documented comments regarding “Cultural and Paleontological Resources” and associated planning classifications are summarized in Table BH-9.

Table BH-9. Cultural and Paleontological Resources

Comment	Planning Classification ¹			
	A	B	C	D
Increase protection of existing sites and cultural artifacts			✓	
Prevent grazing in areas having significant cultural resources	✓			
Conduct cultural resource inventories			✓	
Remedy archaeological looting			✓	
Allow only limited access to existing sites, such as through guided tours	✓			
¹ Issues are classified as follows: ‘A’—will be addressed in the current Resource Management Plan; ‘B’—will be resolved through policy or administrative actions; ‘C’—are already being addressed or will be addressed independent of the current planning effort; ‘D’—determined to be beyond the scope of current planning.				

The majority of comments received for this issue reflected a perceived need for increased protection of cultural resources. Included in many of these comments were requests that cultural inventories be conducted and that archaeological looting be halted. These comments have been classified as “C,” meaning they will not be addressed by the current RMP, but can be addressed now without further planning.

Comments that specified issues relating to grazing impacts on cultural resources will be addressed by the current plan. Individual comments included suppositions that grazing impacts were destroying cultural resources, and these impacts need to be evaluated and studied more closely. It is through the RMP effort that BLM will develop an access plan to established cultural resource sites. This plan will include a determination of the amount, time, type, and location of access, along with what services, if any, will be provided by BLM (e.g., guided tours).

Agency Concerns

- No agency concerns were documented for “Cultural and Paleontological Resources.”

Management Concerns

- BLM allocates specific cultural resource properties to scientific, traditional, public, and experimental uses. BLM must determine the factors that will guide how specific sites, or categories of sites, are allocated to these use categories. Specific allocations will be made in the RMP.
- BLM must identify significant cultural resources and protect them from damage associated with looting, vandalism, vehicle traffic, other land uses, and natural deterioration. The planning process will identify critical inventory and protection needs, as well as protection measures and management strategies.
- There is an increasing demand for heritage tourism opportunities in the area surrounding Phoenix. BLM needs to determine how best to provide opportunities for public visitation, education, and commercial tours, while protecting cultural resources.
- In the past, Recreation & Public Purpose leases have been granted in areas that contain significant cultural resources. In some cases, establishment of these leases helps protect areas as open space by restricting access. However, the lessees often have difficulty protecting the sites or in funding approved data recovery projects to mitigate adverse impacts. The RMP will include measures needed to ensure that cultural properties are excluded from leases, or protected in place, or that adverse impacts are mitigated through data recovery.
- Cultural resources in the planning area have traditional cultural significance to Southwestern Native American tribes. The plan will address measures to protect sites, landmarks, or use areas that have sacred or other traditional importance to tribes.
- BLM must consider how to identify, protect, and allow for appropriate research or educational uses of significant paleontological resources (fossils).

Additional Planning Criteria

- For all proposed undertakings, BLM will comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). This includes the necessity to evaluate and address potential adverse effects on historic properties. BLM will abide by its National Programmatic Agreement relevant to the NHPA, specifically in accordance with the Arizona Protocol approved by SHPO.
- The RMP will require BLM to categorize geographic areas as high, medium, and low priority for future inventory of cultural properties.
- BLM will preserve and protect significant cultural resources and ensure that they are available for appropriate uses by present and future generations.
- The RMP will address the legal obligations of federal land managers to increase public awareness of the significance of the archaeological resources located on public lands and the need to protect such resources, in accordance with Section 10(c) of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (16 USC 470).

Issue BH-6: Wilderness and Special Areas

The Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990 requires the BLM PFO to manage the Harquahala Mountains Wilderness, Big Horn Mountains Wilderness, Hummingbird Springs Wilderness, Hassayampa River Canyon Wilderness, and Hell's Canyon Wilderness as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. The boundaries of these areas were set by Congress and cannot be changed by this RMP. These five areas, totaling 96,820 acres, are managed under the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 and the Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990.

FLPMA mandates that BLM maintain inventories of resources on public lands, including those that may have wilderness character. To be considered for wilderness study, areas must have wilderness characteristics as described in the Wilderness Act of 1964, be a roadless area of more than 5,000 acres, or be managed in conjunction with a unit already designated as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

The Wilderness Act of 1964 established the National Wilderness Preservation System to ensure lands meeting the proscribed characteristics are designated as preserved and then protected in their natural state. Furthermore, FLPMA mandates that BLM inventory, assess, and manage public lands for wilderness characteristics.

In accordance with FLPMA, BLM also has the authority to designate Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), as well as to inventory, assess and manage rivers designated as "Wild and Scenic" in accordance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (as amended).

"Wilderness and Special Areas" includes the sub-issues of "Wilderness Study Areas," "Areas of Critical Environmental Concern," and "Wild and Scenic Rivers."

Wilderness Study Areas

BLM routinely conducts wilderness evaluations. When public lands are determined to have wilderness character, BLM can then propose to establish the areas as Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) through a land use planning process. If WSAs are established, Congress can either officially designate the lands as Wilderness Areas (as required by the Wilderness Act of 1964) or can decline to designate the area, which in effect would release that property for other uses prescribed by FLPMA.

Public Concerns

The documented comments regarding "Wilderness Study Areas," along with associated planning classifications, are summarized in Table BH-10.

Table BH-10. Wilderness Study Areas

Comment	Planning Classification ¹			
	A	B	C	D
Expand wilderness designations				✓
Conduct wilderness inventories	✓			
Reduce amount of wilderness designation				✓
¹ Issues are classified as follows: 'A'—will be addressed in the current Resource Management Plan; 'B'—will be resolved through policy or administrative actions; 'C'—are already being addressed or will be addressed independent of the current planning effort; 'D'—determined to be beyond the scope of current planning.				

Comments from individuals referring to “Wilderness Study Areas” focused on several topics that are beyond the scope of this planning effort. The most frequent comment submitted was a request to expand wilderness designations. Several of the respondents’ comments combined the suggestion of inventorying the public lands and then expanding wilderness designations where appropriate.

BLM will evaluate available property for wilderness character and, via the RMP, may designate appropriate areas as WSAs. Only Congress, however, has the authority to expand the boundaries of current wilderness areas.

While the issue of actual expansion of the currently designated wilderness areas within the planning area is beyond the scope of BLM’s current planning effort, BLM will continue to provide management for these areas under the RMP.

Agency Concerns

- No agency concerns were documented for “Wilderness Study Areas.”

Management Concerns

- Lands with wilderness character may be established as WSAs or managed under other land use guidelines presented by this RMP.
- Environmental and/or management conditions may have changed since the 1979/1980 wilderness inventory, requiring BLM to re-inventory certain public lands to determine if they have wilderness character.
- Some public lands in the planning area may possess wilderness character as defined by Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Additional Planning Criteria

- WSAs, if recommended and designated under authority of FLPMA, Section 202, will be managed in accordance with the *Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands under Wilderness Review* (H-8550-1).
- The five congressionally designated wilderness areas will be managed according to the Wilderness Act of 1964, the Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990, and BLM’s Wilderness Management Regulations (43 CFR 6300).

- The existing BLM wilderness inventory and vehicle route inventory will provide a basis for consideration of any new wilderness proposals, and any lands not inventoried under previous efforts will be inventoried.
- Wilderness inventory will be conducted consistent with BLM inventory guidelines and the BLM Wilderness Inventory Handbook.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

ACECs are areas where a unique density of natural and human resource values exist, making these areas worthy of a high level of concern and protection. Once designation occurs, the focus is to preserve or maintain the resources that require special management attention. Currently, there are no ACECs located within the Bradshaw-Harquahala planning area.

Public Concerns

- No public concerns were documented for “Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.”

Agency Concerns

- No agency concerns were documented for “Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.”

Management Concerns

- Additional ACEC designations may be warranted to protect sensitive areas or resources, or to address safety hazards.

Additional Planning Criteria

- The RMP will include the requirement that BLM evaluate the need for ACEC designations to protect sensitive areas or resources, or to address safety issues.

Wild and Scenic Rivers

A federal agency can nominate a river or portions of a river that meet specific criteria to the National Wild and Scenic River System (NWSRS). Nominations approved by Congress are then included within the NWSRS.

The 1994 Phoenix RMP amendment identified specific portions of the Hassayampa River as eligible for further study in the “Wild and Scenic River” evaluation process. However, the recommended alternative developed from the 1994 *Arizona Statewide Wild and Scenic Rivers Legislative Environmental Impact Statement* determined that the Hassayampa River was not suitable, and the river was not recommended to Congress for inclusion in the NWSRS (U.S. Bureau of Land Management 1994).

Public Concerns

- No public concerns were documented for “Wild and Scenic Rivers.”

Agency Concerns

- No agency concerns were documented for “Wild and Scenic Rivers.”

Management Concerns

- BLM will assess the unique characteristics of the Hassayampa River and evaluate its management in the RMP.

Additional Planning Criteria

- The plan will incorporate decisions made in the 1994 *Arizona Statewide Wild and Scenic Rivers Legislative Environmental Impact Statement*.
- 16 USC 1271-1287, 82 Stat. 906, P.L. 90-542: National Wild and Scenic River Act of 1968

Issue BH-7: Minerals

The PFO administers about 1,700,000 acres of mineral estate within the planning areas. A portion of this acreage is classified as split estate lands (SELs). SELs, once owned by the federal government, occur when private parties acquire surface rights to the lands, but the mineral estate is still managed by BLM. As part of the transfer of title, the federal government retains ownership over the subsurface minerals. Minerals from these and other public lands produce commodities that are key to local and regional economies. Mineral resources generate the highest economic production values among commercial uses of BLM-administered public lands. BLM administers three different programs that allow production of minerals on public lands. “Leasable” minerals include, but are not limited to oil, gas and coal. “Locatable” minerals include, but are not limited to gold, silver, and copper. “Saleable” minerals include, but are not limited to, sand, gravel, and stone.

Additionally, certain BLM lands having the potential for placer gold have been used by the public for recreational gold mining (i.e., gold panning, metal detecting, etc.).

Public Concerns

The documented comments regarding “Minerals” and associated planning classifications are summarized in Table BH-11.

Table BH-11. Minerals

Comment	Planning Classification ¹			
	A	B	C	D
Reduce and limit mining activities	✓			
Continue existing mining leases	✓			
Expand mining activities	✓			
¹ Issues are classified as follows: 'A'—will be addressed in the current Resource Management Plan; 'B'—will be resolved through policy or administrative actions; 'C'—are already being addressed or will be addressed independent of the current planning effort; 'D'—determined to be beyond the scope of current planning.				

Mining as a recreational activity received both positive and negative feedback. Although it is a recreational activity that Arizonans have engaged in for many years, some individuals feel it is an activity that needs adequate monitoring if it is going to exist at all. Individual comments on commercial mining typically fell in one of three categories. Respondents either wanted to limit activities, expand activities, or continue current mining leases. All three of these comments are issues that will be addressed within BLM's current planning effort.

Agency Concerns

- Prescott National Forest is interested in exploring management opportunities relating to mineral permits.

Management Concerns

- Abandoned mines may be present that pose potential safety hazards to the public. Through the plan, BLM will identify and develop abandoned mine management policies to address public safety concerns.
- BLM needs to identify lands with mineral potential and ensure that mineral resources are available to meet present and projected public needs.
- BLM needs to clarify its responsibilities for managing split estate lands.
- BLM may need to develop general requirements for preserving and protecting the special environmental and unique resource values of the Bradshaw-Harquahala planning area. These requirements would guide the formulation of specific stipulations, construction and/or operating standards, which will be applied to surface-disturbing activity.
- BLM should identify post-mining land uses.
- BLM needs to determine what, if any, public lands presently removed from the operation of the mining laws should be restored to mineral entry.

Additional Planning Criteria

- The RMP will identify those areas open to fluid mineral leasing, subject to the terms and conditions of the standard lease form, which may include minor constraints such as seasonal restrictions.

- The RMP will identify those areas open to leasing, subject to major constraints such as no surface occupancy stipulations on an area more than 40 acres in size or more than 1/4 mile in width.
- The RMP will identify those areas closed to fluid mineral leasing.
- The RMP will develop lease stipulations that apply to areas open to fluid mineral leasing.
- The RMP will determine whether the fluid mineral leasing and development decisions also apply to geophysical exploration.
- The RMP will identify what areas will be open or closed to mining, mineral material disposal, and non-energy leasing.
- On those lands that are open, the RMP will identify any area-wide terms, conditions, or other special considerations needed to protect resource values.

Issue BH-8: Wildlife and Fisheries Management

Public lands throughout the planning area are habitat for a wide array of wildlife and fish, including a number of threatened and endangered species. Managing these areas is an essential part of the PFO's responsibility. "Wildlife and Fisheries Management" includes the sub-issues of "General Wildlife and Fisheries Management," "Threatened and Endangered Species," and "Sensitive Species."

General Wildlife and Fisheries Management

The PFO administers wildlife and fishery habitats for mammals, birds, reptiles, aquatic species and amphibians on public lands through a process of ecosystem management, seeking to maintain and enhance these existing resources. Continuous efforts are made to ensure that all actions authorized will not jeopardize the continued existence of any threatened or endangered species.

Public Concerns

The documented comments regarding "General Wildlife and Fisheries Management" and associated planning classifications are summarized in Table BH-12.

Table BH-12. General Wildlife and Fisheries Management

Comment	Planning Classification ¹			
	A	B	C	D
Preserve habitat for birdwatching/wildlife viewing	✓			
Maintain waters for wildlife			✓	
Reintroduce native fish species to aquatic systems in the area	✓			
¹ Issues are classified as follows: 'A'—will be addressed in the current Resource Management Plan; 'B'—will be resolved through policy or administrative actions; 'C'—are already being addressed or will be addressed independent of the current planning effort; 'D'—determined to be beyond the scope of current planning.				

Comments received focused on protection and preservation of wildlife, including the natural resources on which they depend. Preserving habitat for birdwatching and wildlife viewing is a decision made at the RMP level and will be included in the plan development.

Individuals made specific comments referencing the division of land ownership, reiterating the importance of retaining wildlife corridors. Individuals also made remarks that all species must be taken into consideration when plans are being developed. A number of comments requested that BLM reintroduce native fish species to aquatic systems in the area.

Comments that were received regarding the maintenance of waters for wildlife is a BLM decision that can be addressed independently of this plan. Therefore, this issue will not be further addressed at this time. However, the possible need for additional water development may be addressed.

Agency Concerns

- The Arizona Game and Fish Department must continue to have the ability to implement necessary management actions that support existing, re-introduced, supplemented, or expanded populations of wildlife. Necessary management actions may include releases of wildlife into currently unoccupied habitats, maintenance of existing wildlife water developments, construction of new wildlife water developments, and implementation of various wildlife habitat enhancement and improvement projects.

Management Concerns

- Some current land uses do or potentially could degrade or destroy sensitive wildlife habitat areas. Changes to authorized uses may be necessary to protect the integrity of these habitat areas.
- Efforts to maintain or improve wildlife habitat integrity are impeded by habitat fragmentation and increased human activity. Some management changes or use restrictions may be necessary to protect wildlife habitat integrity.

- Current land ownership patterns preclude effective management of wildlife habitat in some areas and lead to further habitat fragmentation. Land tenure changes may improve manageability.
- BLM will assess the impact that development of adjacent private lands has had on habitat fragmentation, increased visitor use, disturbance to wildlife habitat, and dewatering of streams and springs on public lands. Acquisition of private land in-holdings and instream water rights may help maintain wildlife habitat values.
- Maintenance of existing wildlife habitat improvements and adequate water distribution is essential to maintain current wildlife populations.
- Many areas have experienced reduced plant or wildlife diversity. Biological diversity may be improved by implementing changes in management.
- Some wildlife populations require human intervention to maintain or improve their integrity and viability due to the presence of barriers to natural movement.
- Invasive plant and wildlife species have negatively impacted native plant and animal populations. Human intervention to eradicate invasive species and restore functional ecosystems may be necessary.

Additional Planning Criteria

- No additional planning criteria were documented for “Wildlife and Fisheries Management.”

Threatened and Endangered Species

BLM is responsible for the protection and conservation of threatened and endangered species and must use its authority in the furtherance of the purposes of the Endangered Species Act.

Public Concerns

- No public concerns were documented for “Threatened and Endangered Species.”

Agency Concerns

- The Arizona Game and Fish Department must continue to have the ability to implement necessary management actions that support existing, re-introduced, supplemented, or expanded populations of wildlife. Necessary management actions may include releases of wildlife into currently unoccupied habitats, maintenance of existing wildlife water developments, construction of new wildlife water developments, and implementation of various wildlife habitat enhancement and improvement projects.

Management Concerns

- Endangered species recovery activities are restricted due to other ongoing uses or activities. Some uses or activities may require modification to facilitate species recovery.
- BLM will take necessary steps to ensure proper consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; a draft consultation agreement has already been prepared.

Additional Planning Criteria

- In accordance with the Endangered Species Act (1973, as amended), Section 7(a)(1), BLM will implement those land use allocations and management actions/direction of the proposed RMP that are designed to benefit threatened and endangered species.
- In accordance with the Endangered Species Act (1973, as amended), Section 7(a)(2), management actions authorized, funded or implemented by BLM will be done so as not to jeopardize the continued existence of federally listed threatened or endangered plant or animal species critical habitat.

Sensitive Species

BLM has developed an agency-specific plant, fish, and wildlife “Sensitive Species” list. This list supplements those species that are already federally listed or state-listed. BLM manages each of the identified species and their required habitats with the intent to recover species and maintain healthy populations, and thereby avoid the need for further listing of any species as threatened or endangered.

Public Concerns

- No public concerns were documented for “Sensitive Species.”

Agency Concerns

- The Arizona Game and Fish Department must continue to have the ability to implement necessary management actions that support existing, re-introduced, supplemented, or expanded populations of wildlife. Necessary management actions may include releases of wildlife into currently unoccupied habitats, maintenance of existing wildlife water developments, construction of new wildlife water developments, and implementation of various wildlife habitat enhancement and improvement projects.

Management Concerns

- Management needs to devise a plan that reduces impacts to candidate species and species of concern to ensure they are not moved to the threatened and endangered species list.
- Sensitive habitats need to be protected from conflicting uses.

Additional Planning Criteria

- Candidate species, species proposed for federal listing, and BLM and state-listed sensitive species will be given the same consideration as those species currently listed as threatened or endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- The plan will implement BLM's 1988 *Desert Tortoise Habitat Management on the Public Lands: A Rangewide Plan* and the 1990 *Strategy for Desert Tortoise Habitat Management on Public Lands in Arizona*.
- The plan will consider the habitat needs of sensitive species.
- BLM Manual Section 6840 will guide BLM management of sensitive species.

Issue BH-9: Hazardous Materials and Solid Waste

BLM's hazardous material and solid waste program focuses on managing known hazards to human health and the environment. The hazardous materials program also deals with the management of everyday items that may contain substances that are harmful to the environment. Controls are instituted to manage storage, application, and disposal of these items. The solid waste program focuses on the management of solid waste (trash or garbage), including both legally collected and disposed materials and materials that are illegally dumped on BLM-administered lands. Illegal dumping can create a serious threat to both public land users and natural systems. Both solid and hazardous wastes are managed in accordance with the requirements outlined the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), the Comprehensive Environmental Resource Compensation Liability Act (CERCLA), and other federal and state laws.

Public Concerns

The documented comments regarding "Hazardous Materials and Solid Waste" and associated planning classifications are summarized in Table BH-13.

Table BH-13. Hazardous Materials/Solid Waste

Comment	Planning Classification ¹			
	A	B	C	D
Increase preventative measures for litter/dumping			✓	
¹ Issues are classified as follows: 'A'—will be addressed in the current Resource Management Plan; 'B'—will be resolved through policy or administrative actions; 'C'—are already being addressed or will be addressed independent of the current planning effort; 'D'—determined to be beyond the scope of current planning.				

A primary concern for respondents was the amount of litter and dumping that occurs on public lands. Suggestions included increasing patrols and imposing fines. This is an issue of considerable concern to BLM. Efforts to increase preventative measures for litter and curtail illegal dumping, however, are

currently being evaluated independent of this RMP, and thus will not be addressed in the present planning.

Agency Concerns

- No agency concerns were documented for “Hazardous Materials and Solid Waste.”

Management Concerns

- Identify if potential illegal hazardous waste sites exist (through performance of an Initial Site Assessment) and develop a strategy for ameliorating risks associated with these sites.
- Identify possible hazardous materials used and/or stored either directly by BLM or by lessees of BLM lands.
- Include updated management plan for the storage, application (use), and disposal of hazardous materials used either directly by BLM or by lessees of BLM lands.
- Identify and rank risks associated with former mining sites, prospector pits, and ore processing sites.
- Identify, prioritize, and mitigate natural features that may pose a threat to public health and safety.

Additional Planning Criteria

- For BLM to be an effective steward of public lands, existing conditions should be accurately assessed and detrimental activities minimized. This is especially true of issues involving hazardous wastes, since the release of relatively small volumes of contaminants into the natural environment can harm relatively large tracts of land or populations. Knowledge of hazardous waste characteristics and patterns of improper disposal are critical to the planning process. With a clear understanding of hazardous waste disposal concerns, planners can identify steps for mitigation that are often simple and low-cost.

Issue BH-10: Fire Management

Independent of this RMP effort, the National Fire Plan, as endorsed by the Secretary of the Interior in August 2001, is a 10-year comprehensive strategy to reduce the risk of wildland fire to communities and the environment. In accordance with this plan, BLM will implement a number of program actions to reduce hazardous fuels and their adverse effects on forest and rangelands, mitigate the impacts of severe wildfires on rural communities, and enhance fire-fighting capabilities (Wildland Fire Leadership Council 2002). Additionally, as an action independent of this RMP effort, BLM is completing an updated Statewide Fire Management Plan Amendment, based on guidance provided by the National Fire Plan.

BLM currently has a variety of interagency agreements with state and federal agencies to provide fire management staff, firefighters, and equipment to fight fires on BLM and adjacent lands. BLM also exercises its authority to restrict access to public lands to reduce the risk of forest fires.

The 468,638-acre forest fire that swept through the vicinity of Show Low, Arizona in 2002 has heightened awareness of fire management across the state. Views are typically divided on whether fire management should involve human interaction, or if nature should be left to care for itself.

Public Concerns

The documented comments regarding “Fire Management” and associated planning classifications are summarized in Table BH-14.

Table BH-14. Fire Management

Comment	Planning Classification ¹			
	A	B	C	D
Return natural fire cycles	✓			
Debris and brush clearing programs need to be expanded			✓	
Return natural fire regime to mesa tops	✓			
¹ Issues are classified as follows: ‘A’—will be addressed in the current Resource Management Plan; ‘B’—will be resolved through policy or administrative actions; ‘C’—are already being addressed or will be addressed independent of the current planning effort; ‘D’—determined to be beyond the scope of current planning.				

Fire management comments concentrated on allowing natural fire cycles to return to BLM lands, in addition to returning natural fire regimes to mesa tops. Both of these issues are within the scope of this BLM planning effort; however, these management decisions are dependent on the completion of the Statewide Fire Management Plan Amendment.

Expanding debris and brush-clearing programs received public attention as well. Management of debris and brush is an ongoing program, the size of which is largely determined by available funding. As this program is already being managed at a local level, it will not be addressed in this RMP. Specifics regarding fire management may be addressed in the Statewide Fire Management Plan Amendment and incorporated into these plans at the appropriate time.

Agency Concerns

- No agency concerns were documented for “Fire Management.”

Management Concerns

- Assess land use patterns in relationship to available fuels to determine areas where natural fire cycles can be allowed to return and fire can be allowed to exercise its natural role in the environment.

- Evaluate special fuel treatments that may be needed to reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfires, and determine the kinds of treatment that are appropriate in the local environments and within the wildland-urban interface areas.
- Review general guidelines that must be established for prescribed burning to comply with Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) air quality standards.
- Evaluate special constraints that need to be placed on fire activities (e.g., suppression techniques such as off-road travel or use of fugitive retardant; fuel management techniques such as prescribed burning or mechanical fuel reduction) to be consistent with environmental limitations and management objectives.
- Evaluate possible impacts on special areas where, in the event of a wildfire, restoration/rehabilitation has a reasonable opportunity for success and potential resource damage justifies the attempt.
- Proposed fuel treatments will be balanced with current grazing authorizations.

Additional Planning Criteria

- Fire management prescriptions will be consistent with the 2001 Federal Wildland Fire Policy, the National Fire Plan, and the Arizona Statewide Fire Management Plan Amendment (currently under development).
- Fire suppression will be accomplished with the least amount of surface disturbance and in a manner that will protect significant cultural and paleontological values.
- Public lands and resources affected by fire will be rehabilitated in accordance with the multiple use objectives identified for the affected area, subject to BLM policies and available funding.

Issue BH-11: Soils, Water, and Air

“Soil, water, and air represent the basic resources upon which all other resources and uses depend” (Bureau of Land Management 2002). Understanding the conditions of all three resources is extremely important when developing a land use plan. BLM helps to protect soils by preventing or reducing wind and water erosion and by avoiding uses in fragile soil areas. By identifying and quantifying claims to water rights on public lands, BLM protects water resources. Furthermore, BLM protects the air quality of public lands by ensuring authorized activities comply with state air quality standards.

Public Concerns

The documented comments regarding “Soils, Water, and Air” and associated planning classifications are summarized in Table BH-15.

Table BH-15. Soils, Water, and Air

Comment	Planning Classification ¹			
	A	B	C	D
Conduct hydrological studies of watershed	✓			
Restrict access to surface water from OHV users	✓			
Restrict access to surface water from miners	✓			
¹ Issues are classified as follows: 'A'—will be addressed in the current Resource Management Plan; 'B'—will be resolved through policy or administrative actions; 'C'—are already being addressed or will be addressed independent of the current planning effort; 'D'—determined to be beyond the scope of current planning.				

Comments received from individuals concentrated on the topic of water, rather than on soil or air. Comments were specific in wanting BLM to conduct hydrological studies of watersheds in the planning area. Furthermore, the issue of access to surface waters by both OHV users and miners was of great concern. All the above-mentioned comments are BLM issues to be resolved through this RMP planning effort.

Agency Concerns

- No agency concerns were documented for “Soils, Water, and Air.”

Management Concerns

- ADEQ has identified numerous surface waters as “Limited” (i.e., waters containing higher than minimum levels of some measured pollutant) within the planning area. BLM needs to identify any public health or safety risk associated with contact with these waters. BLM needs to develop and identify a plan of action to reduce the measured pollutants and recover these waters where practical.
- BLM will identify ADEQ-designated Category I Watersheds in the planning area and determine what, if any, restoration actions need to be considered for these watersheds.
- BLM will identify what activities within the planning area do not conform with the air quality standards developed by ADEQ, with special attention given to the PM-10 non-attainment area in Maricopa County. BLM will develop management prescriptions needed to ensure its compliance with local and federal regulations associated with the Clean Air Act of 1990.
- To ensure water availability and legal entitlement to water for multiple use resources within the planning area, BLM will inventory and quantify its water resources and file for appropriative water rights in accordance with state law procedures.
- In compliance with the Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990, BLM will identify, quantify, and notify the Arizona Department of Water Resources of its federal reserved water rights for each wilderness area within the planning area.

Additional Planning Criteria

- Develop management prescriptions needed to ensure BLM stays in compliance with local and federal regulations associated with the Clean Air Act of 1990.
- Water source inventory methods will be in accordance with the Arizona BLM 7250 Water Rights Manual
- State water filing procedures will follow Title 45 of the Arizona Revised Statutes.
- The plan will incorporate Title I, Section 101(g) of the Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990, which addresses, for each wilderness area, the reservation of a quantity of water and the filing of a claim with the State.

Issue BH-12: Horse and Burro Program

As a result of the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971, one of the primary responsibilities of BLM is to preserve and protect wild horses and burros, while managing healthy rangelands. In doing so, BLM must take natural resources such as vegetation and wildlife into consideration, as well as other users like livestock and recreationists. There is one designated Herd Management Area (HMA) within the Bradshaw-Harquahala planning area, and one herd area that has not yet been designated. The Lake Pleasant HMA is located just north and west of Lake Pleasant, and the Harquahala herd area is located immediately west and south of the Harquahala Mountains.

Public Concerns

Public concerns regarding the “Horse and Burro Program” were limited to one individual who provided verbal comments while attending one of the BLM scoping meetings. The individual was disappointed with the program and felt the burros were responsible for knocking down cattle fencing. No other public comments were submitted regarding this issue.

Agency Concerns

- No agency concerns were documented for “Horse and Burro Program.”

Management Concerns

- The increasing population of the greater Phoenix area is causing a significant increase in the number of nuisance animal complaints in and around the Lake Pleasant HMA. Long-term management problems will include maintaining a viable population of animals at the Appropriate Management Level (AML) while providing increased recreational use opportunities for the Phoenix-area population.
- Short-term management concerns for the Harquahala herd area will be to establish the AML and to minimize impacts to wilderness and wildlife habitat.

Additional Planning Criteria

- No additional planning criteria were documented for “Horse and Burro Program.”

Issues to Address – Agua Fria National Monument

Figure 3, below, illustrates the distribution by issue of all comments received for the Agua Fria National Monument planning area. This distribution was used to determine the order by which issues are presented and discussed in the text sections below.

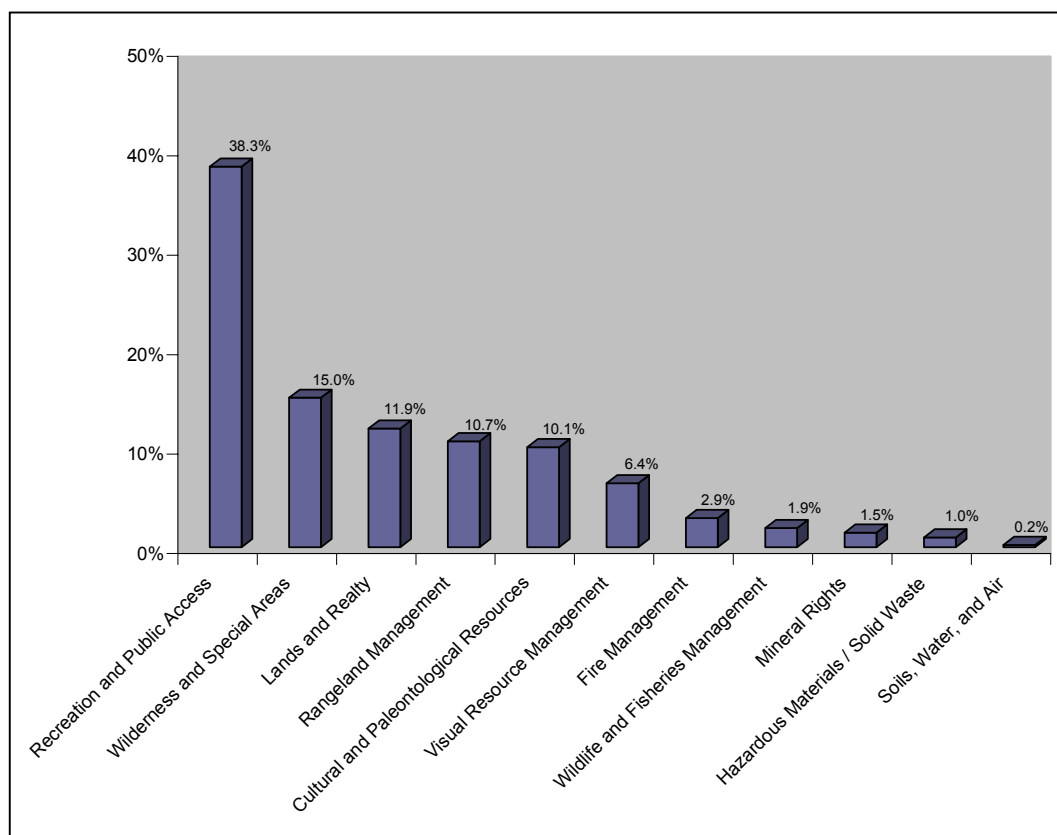


Figure 3. Public Response by Issue – Agua Fria National Monument Planning Area

Issue AF-1: Recreation and Public Access

One of the primary aims of the Agua Fria National Monument RMP is to develop a plan that will provide public access while protecting the Monument and resources described in the Proclamation. Certain restrictions associated with the management of the Monument, such as the prohibition against the use of motorized and mechanized vehicles off established roads, are contained within the Proclamation. Other public issues and management concerns will be addressed in the RMP.

“Recreation and Public Access” includes the sub-issues of “General Recreation,” “Off-Highway Vehicles,” “Transportation Network,” and “Law Enforcement.”

Combined, these sub-issues received the highest number of comments from the public with regard to the Agua Fria National Monument planning area.

General Recreation

Recreation activities and public access will be managed in conformance to the Proclamation that established the Monument and to other management objectives identified during the RMP planning process.

Public Concerns

The documented comments specifically regarding “General Recreation,” and associated planning classifications, are summarized in Table AF-1.

Table AF-1. General Recreation

Comment	Planning Classification ¹			
	A	B	C	D
Allow for recreational use	✓			
Establish educational programs for all users of public lands	✓		✓	
Restrict shooting	✓			
Trails should be better maintained to encourage users to stay on trails	✓		✓	
Build visitor center	✓			
Joint BLM/community land stewardship programs should be enacted		✓		
¹ Issues are classified as follows: ‘A’—will be addressed in the current Resource Management Plan; ‘B’—will be resolved through policy or administrative actions; ‘C’—are already being addressed or will be addressed independent of the current planning effort; ‘D’—determined to be beyond the scope of current planning.				

As was found during the development of the Bradshaw-Harquahala section of this scoping report, issues related to “General Recreation” remained a top priority for respondents. Although individuals were aware that the development of a public access plan is necessary, several did not want BLM to limit recreational opportunities within the Monument. Public access to the Monument, and the amount of recreational opportunities allowed within the Monument (e.g., camping, shooting, hiking, and riding), are all planning issues that will be addressed within the Agua Fria National Monument RMP.

Other comments received that will be addressed within the Agua Fria National Monument RMP are related to the topics of developing multiple use areas, increasing user fees, and either increasing or limiting the size and/or location of camping areas.

A frequent comment was the request that BLM establish an educational program for all users. BLM assigned this comment two planning classifications (“A” and “C”), because some aspects of educational programs will be addressed in this RMP, and some will be addressed separately. The quantity and overall profile of

interpretation on the Monument (i.e., signs, self-guided trails, etc.) will be addressed in this RMP. Many decisions regarding the identification, development, and management of educational programs, however, are currently being conducted independent of this RMP process. These items are, or will be, identified as action needs in the PFO's internal annual work plan.

Additionally, the comment regarding trail maintenance received both planning classifications "A" and "C." The general type and locations of future trails will be addressed in this plan, as will the desired levels of future maintenance. Maintenance of currently existing trails, however, can be accomplished independently of this plan.

Agency Concerns

- Prescott National Forest is interested in exploring management opportunities for joint recreation and special use areas.
- Tonto National Forest has expressed concern regarding how restrictions on recreation access or use within the Monument may impact adjacent National Forest lands.

Management Concerns

- Identify visitor use patterns and devise management plans that balance the consumptive uses of visitors with BLM's requirement to protect the natural and cultural resources within the Monument.
- BLM needs to consider the public's opinion on what level of services, including restroom facilities, interpretative signs or kiosks, picnic facilities, site access, access to drinking water, mechanized and non-mechanized routes or trails, hiking and equestrian trails and parking areas, etc., are needed at the Monument.
- The development of facilities within the Monument must consider objects protected through the Proclamation.
- BLM needs to ensure the safety and well being of visitors to the Monument.
- Identify current points of public and administrative access. Review impacts associated with the existing access and provide management recommendations on maintenance of existing access, improvements to existing access points, closure of existing access points, opening new access points.
- Identify types of recreational activities occurring on the Monument as well as possible future activities. Review impacts associated with these activities and devise management recommendations that would provide positive visitor experiences while maintaining the cultural and natural resource values of the land.
- Identify current and potential future commercial activities occurring on or likely to occur on the Monument. Review impacts associated with these activities and devise recommendations on management, including number, types, and cost of any permits made available to commercial outfitters.

- Recreational shooting will be evaluated in recreation use areas and dump areas.
- Recreational shooting may impact values and resources for which the Monument was established.

Additional Planning Criteria

- Revised Statute 2477 or Title V of FLPMA.
- FLPMA, 43 USC 1701, Section (a)(8).
- BLM will provide a wide range of developed and dispersed recreation opportunities needed to meet the projected recreation demands within the planning area.
- Recreation management objectives will be defined in the planning process based on recreational opportunities and compatibility with other resource management objectives.
- Capacity and use limits of Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) may be used to manage recreational resources.
- Recreation Opportunity Spectrum analysis will be completed and results will be incorporated into future management decisions outlined in the RMP.
- Limits of Acceptable Change will be identified and incorporated into future management decisions outlined in the RMP.

Off-Highway Vehicles

To protect the resources identified in the Proclamation, the Agua Fria RMP will develop a transportation management plan that may limit the use of motorized and mechanized vehicle to existing roads only, with the exception of authorized administrative or emergency purposes. Specific OHV route designations, in addition to what is outlined in the Proclamation, may be developed as a result of the Agua Fria National Monument transportation plan.

Public Concerns

The documented comments regarding “Off-Highway Vehicles” and associated planning classifications are summarized in Table AF-2.

Table AF-2. Off-Highway Vehicles

Comment	Planning Classification ¹			
	A	B	C	D
Restrict and limit use	✓			
Establish rules (and enforce where appropriate) for use of OHVs			✓	
Establish educational program for OHV users			✓	
Maintain and allow usage on existing trails	✓			
Develop additional trails	✓			
¹ Issues are classified as follows: 'A'—will be addressed in the current Resource Management Plan; 'B'—will be resolved through policy or administrative actions; 'C'—are already being addressed or will be addressed independent of the current planning effort; 'D'—determined to be beyond the scope of current planning.				

Based on comments received from individuals, the issue of OHV usage within the Monument received the greatest attention among transportation-related comments. The comments received primarily focused on a request that BLM restrict the use of OHVs in the Monument. This issue will be incorporated into the development of a transportation network through the Monument. The development of a transportation plan during the planning process will also cover comments that referenced maintaining current usage and developing additional trails, as well as comments requesting closure of existing trails.

Establishing rules, and enforcing existing rules where appropriate, also comprised a significant number of the comments received. This RMP planning effort may establish new rules for OHV use, but will not address law enforcement issues. Rather, these will be addressed by ongoing independent management actions by BLM.

The development of educational programs for OHV users is also an issue that will not be further addressed in this plan due to the ability of BLM to address this concern independently of this planning effort.

Agency Concerns

- Prescott National Forest is interested in exploring management opportunities for join recreation and special uses areas.
- Tonto National Forest is concerned that differences in agency policies with regard to motor vehicle use restrictions may confuse the recreating public as they transit from BLM lands to Forest Service lands.

Management Concerns

- EIS analysis will address the impacts from increased motorized access to high value areas that have been defined as such in the Proclamation.
- Increased OHV use on public lands has provided for greater motorized access into areas that formerly supported more solitary types of uses.

- Conflicts may exist between motorized OHV users and non-motorized users.
- Sensitive resources may be susceptible to damage caused by OHV use.
- The public may want some OHV routes, if any are designated within the Monument, to be “interpretive” in nature. If so, BLM will evaluate where these would be located to best reduce conflicts with other Monument values.
- Management will evaluate if alternate BLM lands would better support OHV use.
- Through use of the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum and Visual Resource Management rating, BLM may determine zones within the Monument that will support specific types of use based on setting and natural and social attributes.
- Management will determine through a public process which roads will remain open, limited (seasonally open/closed), or closed.
- BLM will promote safe interactions between OHV users and all other Monument visitors.
- BLM will evaluate improving educational efforts with regard to impacts that may result from OHV use.

Additional Planning Criteria

- FLPMA, Public Law 94-579, October 21, 1976.
- Executive Orders 1164 (1972) and 11989 (1978), 43 CFR 8340, policy, and manual guidance which directs the BLM’s management of motorized OHVs.
- *Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration* (1997).
- BLM Guidelines for completion of a Recreation Opportunity Spectrum analysis
- BLM Guidelines for completion of a Visual Resource Management analysis.
- 43 CFR 8340, Public Lands: Off-Road Vehicles.
- *National Management Strategy for Motorized Off-Highway Vehicle Use on Public Land* (2001).

Transportation Network

Creating an environmentally sensitive transportation system throughout the Monument is another prevailing public concern. While many roads and trails already exist within the Monument, some individuals providing comments felt a transportation system with designated routes was desirable to support the visiting population while preserving the sensitive ecosystem.

Public Concerns

The documented comments regarding “Transportation Network” and associated planning classifications are summarized in Table AF-3.

Table AF-3. Transportation Network

Comment	Planning Classification ¹			
	A	B	C	D
Create environmentally sensitive transportation system	✓			
Close and rehabilitate all vehicle routes that threaten cultural and biological resources	✓			
Designations should also be made for primitive areas & motorized areas	✓			
Maintain public access	✓			
Limit access to discourage extensive use	✓			
Allow public access for nonmotorized modes only	✓			
¹ Issues are classified as follows: 'A'—will be addressed in the current Resource Management Plan; 'B'—will be resolved through policy or administrative actions; 'C'—are already being addressed or will be addressed independent of the current planning effort; 'D'—determined to be beyond the scope of current planning.				

All of the above-referenced comments are within BLM's scope for this RMP planning effort. The primary concern expressed by the public is a request that BLM develop an environmentally sensitive transportation system. The development of this transportation system incorporates several other concerns identified by respondents. For example, the transportation system will assess vehicle routes that threaten both cultural and biological resources. Through this planning process, designations will be made that will identify the type of vehicle use allowed in both primitive and motorized areas.

BLM also intends to exercise its authority through this plan to evaluate limiting access points to discourage overuse of motorized areas and illegal use of motorized vehicles in primitive areas.

An issue that received comments, but that will not be evaluated through this planning effort, is a request that the BLM increase the points of access available to the handicapped. Policy on handicap accessibility is being addressed at the national level.

Agency Concerns

- Arizona Game and Fish Department stated that they should be directly involved during the route planning and designation process so that they may help identify important fish and wildlife resource areas and ensure appropriate access for wildlife-related recreation.
- Prescott National Forest is interested in exploring management opportunities for shared roads and trails.
- Tonto National Forest believes management decisions for shared road systems need to be coordinated with other agencies. Additionally, any trail that would be proposed to cross or be adjacent to the Forest boundary needs to be evaluated for its effect on the National Forest.

Management Concerns

- Management will determine through a public process which roads will remain open, limited (seasonally open/closed), or closed.
- Maintain public access where needed.
- Provide for an environmental sensitive transportation system that looks at alternative types of use and corridors of opportunity.
- Allow for multiple use, where appropriate.
- Coordinate with other public entities to assure continued access and to further identify access issues and concerns.
- Needs of disabled people will be incorporated into access plans.
- Recreation sprawl may result with increased access.
- Increased access may impact visitor experiences and expectations.
- Increased access may degrade the values set forth in the Proclamation.
- Increased access may threaten cultural and biological resources.

Additional Planning Criteria

- The plan will include transportation and access needs for motorized and non-motorized uses.
- Designations of “Closed to Vehicle Traffic,” and “Traffic Limited to Designated Routes” will be made.
- The RMP may designate a network of motorized routes.
- The BLM route inventory will provide a basis for considering route management.

Law Enforcement

As previously noted, there has been a tremendous amount of interest in the level of BLM-administered law enforcement taking place within both the Agua Fria National Monument and the Bradshaw-Harquahala planning area. Law enforcement problems are exacerbated when they occur in National Monuments due to the sensitivity of the area. The reason behind designating an area as a National Monument is for the purpose of protecting, caring for, and managing “historic landmarks, historic or prehistoric structures and other objects of historic or scientific interest.” BLM is aware of the importance behind developing a solid law enforcement foundation to protect the resources that brought the Agua Fria area to National Monument status.

Public Concerns

The documented comments regarding “Law Enforcement” and associated planning classifications are summarized in Table AF-4.

Table AF-4. Law Enforcement

Comment	Planning Classification ¹			
	A	B	C	D
Increase law enforcement efforts			✓	
Increase preventative measures for vandalism			✓	
¹ Issues are classified as follows: 'A'—will be addressed in the current Resource Management Plan; 'B'—will be resolved through policy or administrative actions; 'C'—are already being addressed or will be addressed independent of the current planning effort; 'D'—determined to be beyond the scope of current planning.				

Similarly to the Bradshaw-Harquahala planning area, comments on this issue were received from a range of individuals representing archaeological affiliations, grassroots/non-profit organizations, OHV affiliations, ranchers, trails affiliations, and individuals. All comments recorded regarding the issue of “Law Enforcement” were in favor of increasing law enforcement presence within the Monument. As denoted by the planning classification “C,” however, these comments will not be addressed by BLM during this planning effort. Though the RMP may create rules that require enforcement, law enforcement staffing levels are being addressed by BLM independently of this planning effort.

Agency Concerns

- Tonto National Forest has expressed interest in developing a coordinated law enforcement program.

Management Concerns

- Develop a plan to monitor and reduce the incidences of vandalism and littering on the Monument.
- Identify a way to quantify the extent to which BLM lands are being used for illegal trash dumping. Identify management actions that could reduce or stop this illegal and objectionable behavior. Identify the public health and safety threats associated with this illegal dumping.
- Identify if other public health and safety threats associated with lack of law enforcement exist in the planning area.
- Promote a safe environment for the users of public lands and recreation sites.
- Explore ways to determine the number of desired law enforcement rangers and/or patrols during high use seasons.
- Enforce all federal laws and regulations pertaining to use, management, and development of the public lands and their resources.
- Maintain all law enforcement agreements with federal, state and county agencies.
- Determine the number of rangers required to protect archaeological resources.
- Evaluate ways to enforce all motorized and non-motorized vehicle laws.

Additional Planning Criteria

- 43 USC 1733, Section 303.

Issue AF-2: Wilderness and Special Areas

Certain land use planning decisions pertaining to wilderness and special area designations within the Monument can be identified through this planning effort; however, some designations require the passage of legislation by Congress.

“Wilderness and Special Areas” includes the sub-issues of “Wilderness Study Areas,” “Areas of Critical Environmental Concern,” and “Wild and Scenic Rivers.”

Wilderness Study Areas

FLPMA mandates that BLM inventory and assess public lands on a continuing basis through the land use planning process to determine if public lands have wilderness character. To be considered for wilderness study, areas must have wilderness characteristics as described in the Wilderness Act of 1964, be roadless areas of 5,000 or more acres, or be managed in conjunction with a unit already designated as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

A Wilderness Study Area (WSA) can only be established by BLM through the land use planning process. Only Congress can designate a WSA as wilderness and make it part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Currently, there are no WSAs located within the Monument boundaries. BLM conducted a wilderness character inventory in September 2002 and found five units that met the minimum size criteria for a wilderness area of over 5,000 acres. Four of those units were determined to possess wilderness character, and will therefore be studied within the land use plan for possible establishment as WSAs.

Public Concerns

The documented comments regarding “Wilderness Study Areas,” along with associated planning classifications, are summarized in Table AF-5.

Table AF-5. Wilderness Study Areas

Comment	Planning Classification ¹			
	A	B	C	D
Expand wilderness designations				✓
Expand Agua Fria to include New River and Tonto National Forest				✓
Conduct wilderness inventories	✓			
¹ Issues are classified as follows: 'A'—will be addressed in the current Resource Management Plan; 'B'—will be resolved through policy or administrative actions; 'C'—are already being addressed or will be addressed independent of the current planning effort; 'D'—determined to be beyond the scope of current planning.				

As previously noted, decisions on identification of possible WSAs will be made in the plan, but creation and expansion of designated Wilderness Areas is an act that must be decided by Congress. Additionally, there are at present no Wilderness Areas located within the Monument, so expansion is not feasible.

Numerous public comments included the issue of expanding the Monument to include New River and the Tonto National Forest. BLM has interpreted this to mean a request to include a portion of Perry Mesa Archaeological District into the Monument boundaries. Perry Mesa is located on Tonto National Forest lands adjacent to the Monument boundary.

All requests related to expanding the Monument to include New River and Tonto National Forest, as well as those comments requesting a reduction in the amount of wilderness designations, fall under the planning classification "D," denoting issues that are beyond the scope of the current RMP. Any potential expansion of Monument boundaries is a Congressional decision. The RMP will, however, explore consistent management of lands and resources between the Monument and the Tonto National Forest.

Comments that referenced BLM's need to conduct wilderness inventories will be carried forth through this planning effort. BLM has begun conducting wilderness inventories for the Monument and will continue this effort throughout the planning process.

Comments on these topics were submitted from individuals representing the Sierra Club, Arizona Wilderness Coalition, grassroots/non-profit organizations, and trails and archaeological affiliations.

Agency Concerns

- Tonto National Forest requests that BLM consider the impact any new proposal for special designations for lands adjoining the Forest may have on the Forest and its resources.

Management Concerns

- Environmental and/or management conditions may have changed since the 1979/1980-wilderness inventory, requiring BLM to inventory certain public lands to determine if they have wilderness character.
- Some public lands in the planning area may possess wilderness character as defined by Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964.
- Lands with wilderness character may be established as WSAs or managed under other land use guidelines presented by this RMP.
- Management of the portion of the Monument that includes the Perry Mesa Archaeological District will be conducted in coordination with the Tonto National Forest, which manages approximately 11,000 acres of the District.

Additional Planning Criteria

- Wilderness inventory will be conducted consistent with BLM inventory guidelines and the BLM Wilderness Inventory Handbook.
- WSAs, if recommended and designated under authority of FLPMA, Section 202, will be managed in accordance with the *Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands under Wilderness Review* (H-8550-1)

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Two ACECs are located within the Monument, requiring that those areas be managed above and beyond standard management criteria. An area designated as an ACEC indicates that BLM recognizes the significant value of an area and intends to implement management policies to protect and enhance the resource values. With the development of the RMP to implement the provisions of the Proclamation, these designations may change.

Public Concerns

The documented comments regarding “Areas of Critical Environmental Concern,” along with associated planning classifications, are summarized in Table AF-6.

Table AF-6. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Comment	Planning Classification ¹			
	A	B	C	D
Agua Fria River should be designated Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)	✓			
¹ Issues are classified as follows: ‘A’—will be addressed in the current Resource Management Plan; ‘B’—will be resolved through policy or administrative actions; ‘C’—are already being addressed or will be addressed independent of the current planning effort; ‘D’—determined to be beyond the scope of current planning.				

Several comments expressed concern for the sensitive area surrounding the Agua Fria River. The majority of these comments requested designation of the Agua

Fria River as an ACEC. BLM has the authority, through this planning effort, to assess and nominate, where appropriate, areas that should be designated as ACECs.

Agency Concerns

- Tonto National Forest requests that BLM consider the impact any new special designation areas may have on adjoining Forest lands.

Management Concerns

- BLM will determine if ACEC designations are appropriate, considering criteria outlined in the Proclamation.
- Management prescriptions for existing ACECs may require modification to ensure consistency with the Monument Proclamation.
- Additional ACEC designations may be warranted to protect sensitive resources or areas, or to address safety hazards.

Additional Planning Criteria

- BLM will evaluate the need for current ACEC designations due to the protection that accompanies National Monument status.
- BLM will evaluate the need for additional ACEC designations.

Wild and Scenic Rivers

A portion of the Agua Fria River that runs through the Monument was identified as being suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System (NWSRS) in 1994. Since this recommendation, this portion of the river has been managed so as to not impair its suitability for wild and scenic designation. According to the National Park Service's Nationwide Rivers Inventory, more than 60,000 miles of river qualify for inclusion in the NWSRS. To date, fewer than 11,000 miles have been officially designated by Congress as "Wild and Scenic" (American Rivers 2002).

Public Concerns

The documented comments regarding "Wild and Scenic Rivers," along with associated planning classifications, are summarized in Table AF-7.

Table AF-7. Wild and Scenic Rivers

Comment	Planning Classification ¹			
	A	B	C	D
Manage Agua Fria River as Wild and Scenic			✓	
¹ Issues are classified as follows: 'A'—will be addressed in the current Resource Management Plan; 'B'—will be resolved through policy or administrative actions; 'C'—are already being addressed or will be addressed independent of the current planning effort; 'D'—determined to be beyond the scope of current planning.				

The outstanding wild and scenic river values of the recommended Agua Fria River segment are protected under FLPMA authority until Congress acts. Any proposals for changes in the management status of the river will be considered independently from the current planning effort.

Agency Concerns

- No agency concerns were documented for “Wild and Scenic Rivers.”

Management Concerns

- BLM will insure that the Agua Fria River is managed to preserve its Wild and Scenic River eligibility and associated resource values.
- In accordance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, BLM determined that the Agua Fria River is distinguished by outstandingly remarkable values associated with its free-flowing character, scenic qualities, fish and wildlife habitat, and cultural resources. The environmental analysis will consider threats to these values and ways to maintain and protect them.

Additional Planning Criteria

- 16 USC 1271-1287, 82 Stat. 906, P.L. 90-542: National Wild and Scenic River Act of 1968
- The RMP will incorporate decisions made in the 1994 *Arizona Statewide Wild and Scenic Rivers Legislative Environmental Impact Statement*.

Issue AF-3: Lands and Realty

Lands incorporated into the Monument are not subject to typical lands and realty actions. Rather, these lands are subject to management policies set forth in the Proclamation.

“Lands and Realty” also includes the sub-issues of “Land Tenure” and “Transportation Corridors.”

Land Tenure

The Agua Fria National Monument Proclamation states that “All federal lands and interests in lands within the boundaries of this monument are hereby appropriated and withdrawn from all forms of entry, location, selection, sale, leasing, or other disposition under the public land laws.”

A considerable portion of the area adjacent to the Monument is U.S. Forest Service land, which aids in encouraging preservation in the immediate area.

Public Concerns

The documented comments regarding “Land Tenure” and associated planning classifications are summarized in Table AF-8.

Table AF-8. Land Tenure

Comment	Planning Classification ¹			
	A	B	C	D
Stop urban sprawl/No new development				✓
Lands should be managed to preserve cultural and biological resources	✓			
Restrict development to prevent depletion of groundwater				✓
Adjacent landowners should be better informed by BLM of pending changes		✓		
¹ Issues are classified as follows: ‘A’—will be addressed in the current Resource Management Plan; ‘B’—will be resolved through policy or administrative actions; ‘C’—are already being addressed or will be addressed independent of the current planning effort; ‘D’—determined to be beyond the scope of current planning.				

The most frequently received comments regarding “Land Tenure” requested that BLM prevent urban sprawl and future development. These comments, in addition to comments that requesting that BLM restrict development to prevent the depletion of groundwater, are beyond the scope of the current plan. As specifically expressed in the Proclamation, new development on BLM-managed lands within the Agua Fria National Monument is prohibited.

BLM will address managing lands to preserve cultural and biological resources in this planning effort. The density and richness of cultural and biological resources within the Monument obligates BLM to evaluate the area closely.

Informing adjacent landowners of pending BLM changes is another comment BLM received during this scoping process. As denoted by the planning classification “B,” this is a policy issue that BLM will not be addressing in this planning effort. BLM will, however, establish administrative procedures to address this need.

Agency Concerns

- Tonto National Forest has expressed concern with regard to outstanding mineral rights, the potential for hazardous materials, and public safety associated with the Rosalie Mine parcel.

Management Concerns

- Through the planning effort, BLM will address issues related to land acquisition. BLM will make decisions whether in-holdings and suitable adjacent lands will be acquired from willing sellers. BLM will determine what criteria will be used when considering acquisition of non-federal lands within or adjacent to the Monument.
- BLM, in accordance with the Proclamation, has withdrawn all lands and interest in lands within the Monument boundaries from all forms of selection, sale, leasing, or other disposition under the public land laws.
- Based on decisions made in the 1988 Phoenix RMP, the Black Canyon Utility Corridor extends 1 mile into the Monument. The decisions of this current planning effort will assess the placement of that corridor, including the possibility of relocating it. BLM will identify avoidance areas and exclusion areas of right-of-way corridors that exist within the Monument.
- The use of existing rights-of-way will generally not be affected, but BLM, through processes required by law, will identify locations of rights-of-way that will be restricted or prohibited, to protect the federal lands and resources.
- BLM will determine if any lands within the Monument will be made available for communication sites.

Additional Planning Criteria

- The RMP will evaluate the opportunity for acquiring non-federal lands within or adjacent to the Monument that could protect or enhance management or resources of the Monument.
- As required by the Proclamation, upon acquisition of title by the United States of non-federal lands currently within the boundaries of the Monument, BLM shall immediately incorporate those lands as part of the Monument.

Transportation and Utility Corridors

Areas with special or sensitive resources are to be avoided for corridor designation, according to the standards for right-of-way planning as outlined in BLM Manual 2801. Generally, the Agua Fria National Monument is such a special area and is to be considered a corridor designation avoidance area in this planning process. The Black Canyon Utility Corridor, which generally follows the route of I-17, currently overlaps the western boundary of the Agua Fria National Monument by up to 1 mile.

The management concerns listed below indicate that the planning process will determine whether the corridor will be left unchanged or if it should be moved entirely out of the Monument.

Public Concerns

- No public concerns were documented for “Transportation and Utility Corridors.”

Agency Concerns

- The Arizona Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration are concerned about the potential need to expand the I-17 right-of-way corridor for future widening of the northbound lanes.

Management Concerns

- Based on decisions made in the 1988 Phoenix RMP, the Black Canyon Utility Corridor extends 1 mile into the Monument. During this planning effort, BLM will assess the placement of that corridor, including the possibility of relocating it.
- Expansion of the I-17 right-of-way may affect Monument values.

Additional Planning Criteria

- To protect Monument values, special stipulations concerning use of existing ROWs within the Monument may be developed.

Issue AF-4: Rangeland Management

Rangeland management involves nearly all the physical and biological attributes of the land managed by BLM. These attributes include soil, water, air, flora, and fauna. Rangelands are allotted to a variety of uses, including mining, grazing, recreation, and special designation areas.

Within the Monument, rangeland management policies will be addressed in accordance with the 1997 *Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration* as well as with the Proclamation, and will be incorporated into the RMP.

Application of proper rangeland management standards can provide protection to watersheds, increase the quality of water supplies, as well as enhance recreation opportunities and scenic beauty. Quality rangeland also serves as vital habitat for a variety of domesticated and wild species. “Rangeland Management” also includes the sub-issues of “Invasive Species,” “Grazing,” and “Riparian Habitat.”

Invasive Species

Invasive species are defined as “an alien species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health” (National Invasive Species Council 2002). In accordance with *Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration*, BLM has a responsibility to implement policies that would minimize the negative impact invasive species have on public lands.

Public Concerns

- No public concerns were documented for “Invasive Species.”

Agency Concerns

- Tonto National Forest requests that BLM consider impacts on shared landscape located in the Perry Mesa area when planning for vegetative treatments.

Management Concerns

- Identification, mapping and treatment of noxious weeds will continue to be a management priority within the planning area.
- Invasive wildlife species may be adversely impacting native wildlife species in some areas.

Additional Planning Criteria

- *Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands in Thirteen Western States, Final Environmental Impact Statement* (May 1991).
- Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978 (43 USC 1901 et seq.)
- Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974, as amended by Sec. 15 – Management of Undesirable Plants on Federal Lands, 1990 (PL 93-629)
- Carson-Foley Act of 1968 (PL 90-583)
- The plan will address the need to implement efforts to eradicate invasive wildlife species where warranted. Efforts will be coordinated with the Arizona Game and Fish Department.
- Executive Order 13112, February 3, 1999.

Grazing

It is the responsibility of BLM to develop a grazing program that establishes a balance between the needs of the ranchers and other users of public lands. By establishing such a program, BLM will see an acceleration of restoration that will improve rangeland conditions for the benefit of all.

The Agua Fria National Monument Proclamation states, “Laws, regulations, and policies followed by the Bureau of Land Management in issuing and

administering grazing leases on all lands under its jurisdiction shall continue to apply with regard to the lands in the monument.” Management of existing grazing allotments will continue under terms of existing permits and leases.

Public Concerns

The documented comments regarding “Grazing” and associated planning classifications are summarized in Table AF-9.

Table AF-9. Grazing

Comment	Planning Classification ¹			
	A	B	C	D
Evaluate grazing impacts			✓	
Limit grazing	✓			
Continue leases for grazing	✓			
Reduce grazing fees				✓
¹ Issues are classified as follows: ‘A’—will be addressed in the current Resource Management Plan; ‘B’—will be resolved through policy or administrative actions; ‘C’—are already being addressed or will be addressed independent of the current planning effort; ‘D’—determined to be beyond the scope of current planning.				

The public has expressed concern about the impacts of grazing on archaeological sites, riparian areas, and wildlife habitats. The ability to limit grazing in these areas is a decision BLM will make as part of this planning effort. If necessary, BLM can evaluate impacts and then decide to either limit grazing or continue leases that already exist. BLM is independently evaluating grazing impacts using the approved Standards and Guidelines. The relationship between these impacts and the management objectives proposed in the RMP will be analyzed in the EIS. The option to reduce grazing fees, however, will not be further addressed because that action is the purview of Congress.

Agency Concerns

- Tonto National Forest and BLM issued a joint decision for the management of the Horseshoe Allotment on BLM lands and the Copper Creek Allotment on Forest lands. Tonto National Forest recognizes that any proposal to revise management of grazing on the Monument will likely impact grazing management on the Forest.

Management Concerns

- Grazing allotments may have the potential to impact natural or cultural objects on the Monument.
- Determine if any of the lessees do not consistently use these allotments.
- Determine if unused or abandoned allotments can be retired.

- Allotment boundaries or areas within allotments may be adjusted, changing the designation of public lands from one use to another. These adjustments may also preclude grazing in the affected area.
- Evaluate currently scheduled range improvements within the Monument to determine if these are adequate to accomplish land health management goals.

Additional Planning Criteria

- Stock Raising Homestead Act, 43 CFR 3833.1-2(c)(1) and 43 CFR 3814.
- *Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration* (1997).
- Provide for livestock grazing and rangeland improvement projects in an environmentally sensitive manner consistent with resource management objectives and land use allocations.
- Proposed decisions will determine if allotments are open or closed to grazing in accordance with the Taylor Grazing Act.
- Perennial or ephemeral classifications of grazing will be fully assessed at the implementation level.
- BLM will manage grazing through existing laws, regulations, and policies.
- BLM will include a strategy for ensuring that proper grazing practices are followed while preserving habitats for sensitive plant and wildlife species.
- Livestock grazing is permitted pursuant to the terms and conditions of the existing permits and leases except where modified by Monument Proclamation.
- Appropriate best management practices will be followed to protect rangeland resources, and where necessary, to mitigate any conflicts with other uses and values.
- Administrative actions to assure compliance with existing permit/lease requirements, to modify permits and leases, to monitor and supervise grazing use, and to remedy unauthorized grazing use will continue.

Riparian Habitat

BLM recognizes the importance of protecting riparian environments, which contribute to several positive environmental factors. Riparian areas reduce local soil erosion, catch sediment flowing downstream, and help recharge groundwater. Riparian areas are often home to a suite of specialty or niche species, many of which are listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as threatened, endangered, candidates for listing, or species of concern.

The amount and quality of the riparian habitat located in the Monument contributed to its designation as a National Monument.

Public Concerns

The documented comments regarding “Riparian Habitat” and associated planning classifications are summarized in Table AF-10.

Table AF-10. Riparian Habitat

Comment	Planning Classification ¹			
	A	B	C	D
Protect the instream flow of the Agua Fria River	✓			
Restrict access by livestock	✓			
¹ Issues are classified as follows: ‘A’—will be addressed in the current Resource Management Plan; ‘B’—will be resolved through policy or administrative actions; ‘C’—are already being addressed or will be addressed independent of the current planning effort; ‘D’—determined to be beyond the scope of current planning.				

The most frequent concern regarding riparian habitat involved protecting the instream flow of the Agua Fria River. Due to the sensitivity of the riparian environment, a number of respondents felt that grazing in these areas could be extremely detrimental to this ecosystem. Through this planning effort, BLM will identify management practices that will protect the riparian habitats found on the Monument.

Agency Concerns

- No agency concerns were documented for “Riparian Habitat.”

Management Concerns

- Riparian areas may have grazing restrictions established to facilitate proper functioning condition or other vegetative goals.
- Determine current water rights and water needs to maintain the existing riparian corridor, both underground and aboveground. Determine the amount of surface and subsurface flows necessary to maintain the habitat.
- Determine the level of in-stream flow needed to maintain riparian corridors and evaluate the current in-stream flow.
- Maintain adequate surface and subsurface flows in the Agua Fria River and its tributaries to support the riparian and wildlife resources of the Monument.
- Evaluate the impacts from OHV use and improper livestock grazing.

Additional Planning Criteria

- Proposed activities will be measured against the land health standard for riparian areas, floodplains and wetlands that provide for biodiversity, and protection and restoration.
- Management activities in floodplains will be consistent with Executive Order 11988 and management activities for wetlands and riparian areas will be consistent with Executive Order 11990.

Issue AF-5: Cultural and Paleontological Resources

The Agua Fria National Monument is known to contain some of the most significant cultural resources of the American Southwest at hundreds of prehistoric sites. Major sites are located within the Perry Mesa National Register District, on Perry Mesa and Black Mesa. It is the responsibility of BLM to protect these cultural sites by developing a sound framework and incorporating this plan into the Agua Fria National Monument RMP.

Public Concerns

The documented comments regarding “Cultural and Paleontological Resources” and associated planning classifications are summarized in Table AF-11.

Table AF-11. Cultural and Paleontological Resources

Comment	Planning Classification ¹			
	A	B	C	D
Increase protection of existing sites and cultural artifacts			✓	
Prevent grazing in areas having significant cultural resources	✓			
Conduct cultural resource inventories			✓	
Allow only limited access to existing sites, such as through guided tours	✓			
Establish/increase programs to educate public on cultural resource issues			✓	
¹ Issues are classified as follows: ‘A’—will be addressed in the current Resource Management Plan; ‘B’—will be resolved through policy or administrative actions; ‘C’—are already being addressed or will be addressed independent of the current planning effort; ‘D’—determined to be beyond the scope of current planning.				











The issue that received the most responses was “Increase protection of existing sites and cultural artifacts.” This need will primarily be addressed through transportation planning and other decisions that may limit access to sites or create new rules regarding public use of sites. Increasing active law enforcement is a BLM action independent of the ongoing RMP planning effort.

Conducting cultural resource inventories and establishing programs to educate the public on cultural resources are also issues to be addressed independent of this plan, and will therefore not be further addressed at this time. The plan may, however, establish a framework for future research, inventory, and interpretation that both protects the resources of the Monument and encourages the expansion of scientific and historical knowledge.

Other comments submitted regarding the issue of grazing, the level of access to the sites, and comments such as “leave cultural sites alone” will be evaluated during this planning effort.

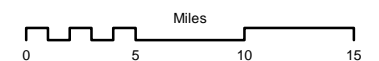
Figure 4 Community Areas

Legend

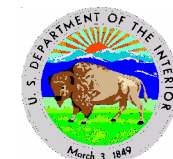
-  Agua Fria National Monument Planning Area
-  Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area
-  Community Areas
-  Community Resource Units
-  BLM Land
-  County Boundary
-  City Boundary
-  Interstate
-  Highway
-  Major River, Stream or Wash

Note: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) conducts land use planning only in the areas administered by BLM. BLM has no planning authority under the municipal or county planning legislation of the State of Arizona.

No warranty is made by BLM for the use of this map for purposes not intended by BLM, or to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of the information shown. Spatial information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This information may be updated without notification.



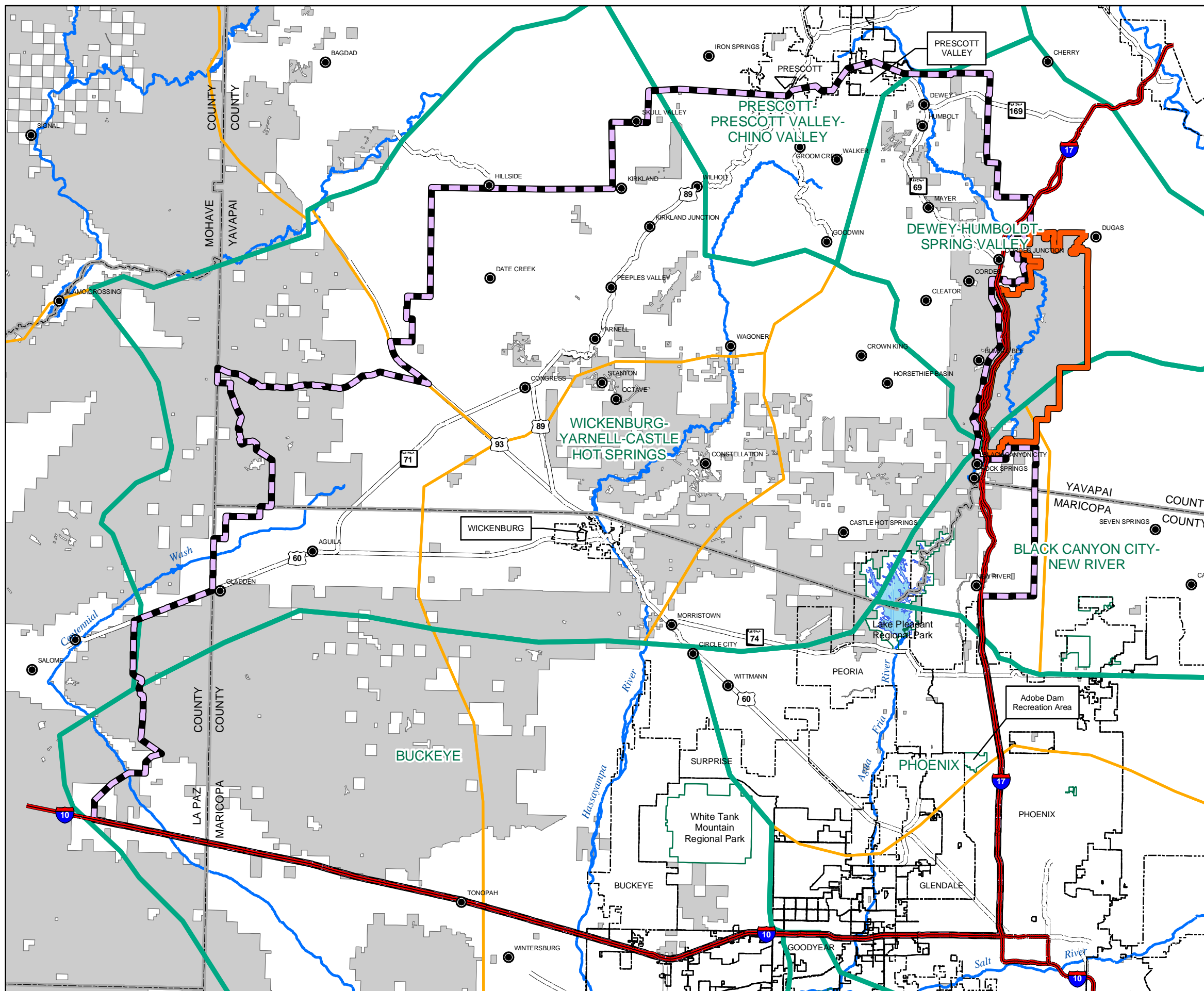
Prepared for:



Prepared by:

 **Jones & Stokes**

February 2003



Agency Concerns

- Tonto National Forest requests BLM to consider the entire Perry Mesa Archaeological District when developing proposals for inventory, protection, research and interpretive programs on the Monument.

Management Concerns

- BLM allocates specific cultural resource properties to scientific, traditional, public, and experimental uses. BLM must define how specific sites in the Monument, or categories of sites, are allocated to the use categories. Specific allocations will be made in the RMP.
- BLM must identify significant cultural resources and protect them from damage associated with looting and vandalism, vehicle traffic, other land uses, and natural deterioration. These preventive measures may include fencing, stabilizing features, erosion control, signage, etc. Preventive measures identified in the RMP will not include an increase in law enforcement personnel. The planning process will identify critical inventory and protection needs, as well as protection measures and management strategies.
- There is an increasing demand for heritage tourism opportunities in the area surrounding Phoenix, including the Agua Fria National Monument. The issue is how to provide opportunities for public visitation, education, and commercial tours, while protecting cultural resources. BLM must consider which sites should be subject to interpretive development or tours, and whether certain areas or sites should be excluded from this use.
- Cultural resources in the planning area have traditional cultural significance to Native American tribes. The plan will address measures to protect sites, landmarks, or use areas that have sacred or other traditional importance to tribes.

Additional Planning Criteria

- BLM will comply with Section 106 for all proposed undertakings, in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), to evaluate and address potential adverse effects on historic properties. BLM will abide by BLM's National Programmatic Agreement relevant to the NHPA, specifically in accordance with the Arizona Protocol with the State Historic Preservation Office.
- The plans will categorize geographic areas as high, medium, and low priority for future inventory of cultural properties.
- BLM will preserve and protect significant cultural resources and ensure that they are available for appropriate uses by present and future generations. BLM will identify cultural resource localities and manage them for public, scientific, and cultural heritage purposes.
- The RMP will address the legal obligations of federal land managers to increase public awareness of the significance of the archaeological resources located on public lands and the need to protect such resources, in accordance

with Section 10(c) of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (16 USC 470).

Issue AF-6: Visual Resource Management

Consistent with BLM's VRM system, the land within the Monument is currently being inventoried for VRM. As previously mentioned, this involves identifying the visual resources of the area and assigning them to inventory classes using BLM's visual resource inventory process. Once the inventory is complete, the Monument will be analyzed for visual resources. This involves determining if potential visual impacts from proposed surface-disturbing activities or developments would meet the management objectives, including those described in the Proclamation, or whether design adjustments will be required (Bureau of Land Management, National Science and Technology Center 2002).

Public Concerns

The documented comments regarding "Visual Resource Management" and associated planning classifications are summarized in Table AF-12.

Table AF-12. Visual Resource Management

Comment	Planning Classification ¹			
	A	B	C	D
Land should be preserved and remain untouched	✓			
Preserve natural beauty	✓			
¹ Issues are classified as follows: 'A'—will be addressed in the current Resource Management Plan; 'B'—will be resolved through policy or administrative actions; 'C'—are already being addressed or will be addressed independent of the current planning effort; 'D'—determined to be beyond the scope of current planning.				

VRM classification of these lands will be part of this planning process. Most responses received from the public relating to VRM requested that BLM preserve the Monument and allow the land to remain untouched, thereby preserving its scenic beauty. Comments specified the need for preservation today so that future generations may enjoy the public lands as well. Comments were often accompanied by requests for an increase in current levels of law enforcement.

Agency Concerns

- Tonto National Forest is in the process of implementing a new methodology, the Scenery Management System (SMS). Any analysis of visual management objectives on the Perry Mesa portion of the Monument adjoining Forest land should be coordinated with the Forest Landscape Architect.

Management Concerns

- Evaluate VRM impacts within the Monument from existing roads, transmission lines, and other structures developed prior to its designation.
- Public sensitivity to visual quality is expected to remain high as the RMP for the Monument is developed.
- Designation of utility corridors within the Monument must be accomplished in accordance with values and objectives expressed in the Proclamation.
- BLM will develop a strategy to deal with increasing uses of dispersed camping such as the development of cluster camping, depletion of existing vegetation, and sanitary concerns/facilities; road enhancement and other amenities that may be needed to provide for visitor health and safety while maintaining the natural environment.
- Assess the impacts of wildcat dumping and littering on VRM resources within the Monument.
- A Scenic Quality Assessment has not previously been completed for the Monument.

Additional Planning Criteria

- VRM inventory will be conducted in conformance with Sections 102 (a)(8), 103 (c), 201 (a), and 505 (a) of FLPMA, in accordance with accepted Bureau practices as described in BLM Manual 8400 – Visual Resource Management, BLM Manual H-8410 – Visual Resource Inventory, and BLM Manual 8431-1 – Visual Resource Contrast Rating.
- VRM objectives will be established in the RMP as prescribed in the BLM Land Use Planning Handbook H-1610-1 and the VRM manuals described previously.
- BLM Washington Office Information Bulletin 98-135 (May 27, 1998) reiterated BLM's policy that all land use planning and environmental documents, as well as all surface-disturbing projects occurring on public lands, are to incorporate VRM considerations.
- BLM will inventory and delineate "scenery units" for the Monument, ensuring that these units coincide with VRM category assessments and that they recognize specific visual characteristics.
- Recreation Opportunity Spectrum analysis will be completed and results will be incorporated into future management decisions outlined in the RMP.
- Limits of Acceptable Change will be identified and incorporated into future management decisions outlined in the RMP.

Issue AF-7: Fire Management

Through this planning effort, a fire management plan will be developed for the Agua Fria National Monument. As previously mentioned, BLM's fire management plan will be structured in accordance with the statewide fire plan

amendment being developed concurrently. The Record of Decision (ROD) for the statewide amendment is expected by August 2003.

Public Concerns

The documented comments regarding “Fire Management” and associated planning classifications are summarized in Table AF-13.

Table AF-13. Fire Management

Comment	Planning Classification ¹			
	A	B	C	D
Return natural fire cycles	✓			
Return natural fire regime to mesa tops	✓			
Debris and brush clearing programs need to be expanded			✓	
¹ Issues are classified as follows: ‘A’—will be addressed in the current Resource Management Plan; ‘B’—will be resolved through policy or administrative actions; ‘C’—are already being addressed or will be addressed independent of the current planning effort; ‘D’—determined to be beyond the scope of current planning.				

The common theme from the public on “Fire Management” was a request that BLM allow natural fire cycles to occur on BLM-managed lands, including a return to natural fire regimes on mesa tops within the Monument.

The debris and brush-clearing program expansion does not need to wait for development of the current RMP. Program expansions can be accomplished independently from this planning effort.

Agency Concerns

- Tonto National Forest prefers that recent coordination of integrated, project-level planning between the PFO and the Forest is carried forward into the Monument RMP.

Management Concerns

- Evaluate the current fire plan and incorporate portions of it into the Agua Fria National Monument RMP where appropriate.
- Proposed fuel treatments will be balanced with authorized activities and will be in conformance with the Proclamation and appropriate laws and regulations.
- Determine special fire management considerations needed for the Agua Fria National Monument and vicinity.

Additional Planning Criteria

- Fire Management prescriptions will be consistent with the 2001 Federal Wildland Fire Policy and the National Fire Plan.

- Fire suppression will be accomplished with the least amount of surface disturbance to protect significant cultural and paleontological values.
- Public lands and resources affected by fire will be rehabilitated in accordance with the multiple use objectives identified for the affected area, subject to BLM policies and available funding.

Issue AF-8: Wildlife and Fisheries Management

The Monument offers habitat for diverse species, including pronghorn antelope, mule deer, javelina, mountain lion, a variety of small mammals, reptiles, and amphibians, and both residential and migratory birds. The Monument is also home to six species of native fish: longfin dace, desert sucker, Gila chub, Gila topminnow, desert pupfish, and speckled dace.

“Wildlife and Fisheries Management” includes the sub-issues of “General Wildlife and Fisheries Management,” “Threatened and Endangered Species,” and “Sensitive Species.”

General Wildlife and Fisheries Management

It is the responsibility of BLM to oversee biological resources consistent with standard BLM wildlife and fisheries management requirements. Attention will be focused on rare, threatened, or endangered species and their habitats on these public lands, with the intention to recover listed species and maintain healthy populations of all other species.

Public Concerns

The documented comments regarding “General Wildlife and Fisheries Management” and associated planning classifications are summarized in Table AF-14.

Table AF-14. General Wildlife and Fisheries Management

Comment	Planning Classification ¹			
	A	B	C	D
Preserve habitat for birdwatching/wildlife viewing	✓			
Maintain waters for wildlife			✓	
Reintroduce native fish species to aquatic systems in the area	✓			
¹ Issues are classified as follows: ‘A’—will be addressed in the current Resource Management Plan; ‘B’—will be resolved through policy or administrative actions; ‘C’—are already being addressed or will be addressed independent of the current planning effort; ‘D’—determined to be beyond the scope of current planning.				

Individuals often commented on the need for preservation of habitat for birdwatching and wildlife viewing. As urban sprawl occurs, the loss of habitat is felt throughout biological communities. Feedback from the public targeted BLM efforts to preserve habitat in addition to reintroducing native fish species. These issues, as well as others specifically relating to individual species populations, will be addressed in the RMP.

Comments requesting BLM to maintain waters for wildlife are considered site-specific issues. Actions to allow for this type of management will be recognized as acceptable in the RMP, however, specific management actions will not be addressed at the land use plan level; rather, these decisions will be addressed by BLM as actions independent from the current planning effort.

Agency Concerns

- The Arizona Game and Fish Department must continue to have the ability to implement necessary management actions that support existing, re-introduced, supplemented, or expanded populations of wildlife. Necessary management actions may include releases of wildlife into currently unoccupied habitats, maintenance of existing wildlife water developments, construction of new wildlife water developments, and implementation of various wildlife habitat enhancement and improvement projects.
- Tonto National Forest recommends that BLM planning of habitat management activities be coordinated with the Forest, especially concerning the resident pronghorn antelope herd, critical habitat for the Gila chub, and other native fish species.

Management Concerns

- Some current land uses do or potentially could degrade or destroy sensitive wildlife habitat areas. Changes to authorized uses may be necessary to protect the integrity of these habitat areas.
- Maintenance of existing wildlife habitat improvements and adequate water distribution is essential to maintain current wildlife populations.
- Many areas have experienced reduced plant or wildlife diversity. Biological diversity may be improved by implementing changes in management.
- Some wildlife populations require human intervention to maintain or improve their integrity of viability due to the presence of barriers to natural movement.
- Introduced plant and wildlife species have negatively impacted native plant and animal populations. Human intervention to eradicate introduced species and restore functioning ecosystems may be necessary.

Additional Planning Criteria

- No additional planning criteria were documented for “General Wildlife and Fisheries Management.”

Threatened and Endangered Species

BLM is responsible for the protection and conservation of threatened and endangered species and must use its authority in the furtherance of the purposes of the Endangered Species Act.

Public Concerns

- No public concerns were documented for “Threatened and Endangered Species.”

Agency Concerns

- The Arizona Game and Fish Department must continue to have the ability to implement necessary management actions that support existing, re-introduced, supplemented, or expanded populations of wildlife. Necessary management actions may include releases of wildlife into currently unoccupied habitats, maintenance of existing wildlife water developments, construction of new wildlife water developments, and implementation of various wildlife habitat enhancement and improvement projects.
- Tonto National Forest recommends that BLM planning of habitat management activities be coordinated with the Forest, especially concerning the resident pronghorn antelope herd, critical habitat for the Gila chub, and other native fish species.

Management Concerns

- Opportunities for endangered species recovery activities need to be addressed. Some uses or activities may need to be modified to facilitate species recovery.
- BLM will take necessary steps to ensure proper consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; a draft consultation agreement has already been prepared.

Additional Planning Criteria

- In accordance with the Endangered Species Act (1973, as amended), Section 7(a)(1), BLM will implement those land use allocations and management actions/direction of the proposed RMP that are designed to benefit threatened and endangered species.
- In accordance with the Endangered Species Act (1973, as amended), Section 7(a)(2), management actions authorized, funded or implemented by BLM will be done so as not to jeopardize the continued existence of federally listed threatened or endangered plant or animal species critical habitat.

Sensitive Species

BLM has developed an agency-specific plant, fish, and wildlife “Sensitive Species” list. This list supplements those species that are already federally listed

or state-listed. BLM manages each of the identified species and their required habitats with the intent to recover species and maintain healthy populations, and thereby avoid the need for further listing of any species as threatened or endangered.

Public Concerns

- No public concerns were documented for “Sensitive Species.”

Agency Concerns

- The Arizona Game and Fish Department must continue to have the ability to implement necessary management actions that support existing, re-introduced, supplemented, or expanded populations of wildlife. Necessary management actions may include releases of wildlife into currently unoccupied habitats, maintenance of existing wildlife water developments, construction of new wildlife water developments, and implementation of various wildlife habitat enhancement and improvement projects.
- Tonto National Forest recommends that BLM planning of habitat management activities be coordinated with the Forest, especially concerning the resident pronghorn antelope herd, critical habitat for the Gila chub, and other native fish species.

Management Concerns

- Management needs to devise a plan that reduces impacts to candidate species and species of concern to ensure they are not moved to the threatened and endangered species list.
- Sensitive habitats need to be protected from conflicting uses.

Additional Planning Criteria

- Candidate species (or those species proposed for federal listing) and BLM- and state-listed sensitive species will be given the same consideration as those species currently listed as threatened or endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- The plan will implement BLM’s 1988 *Desert Tortoise Habitat Management on the Public Lands: A Rangewide Plan* and the 1990 *Strategy for Desert Tortoise Habitat Management on Public Lands in Arizona*.
- The plan will consider the habitat needs of sensitive species.

Issue AF-9: Minerals

There are currently two active mining claims within the Monument. Prior to allowing any mining of the claims, beyond casual use, BLM will need to determine valid existing rights. New mining claims will be prohibited, as the Proclamation withdraws the Agua Fria National Monument from the 1872 Mining Law. There are no existing mining leases located within the Monument.

Public Concerns

The documented comments regarding “Minerals” and associated planning classifications are summarized in Table AF-15.

Table AF-15. Minerals

Comment	Planning Classification ¹			
	A	B	C	D
Reduce and limit mining activities	✓			
Expand mining activities			✓	
Continue existing mining leases			✓	
¹ Issues are classified as follows: ‘A’—will be addressed in the current Resource Management Plan; ‘B’—will be resolved through policy or administrative actions; ‘C’—are already being addressed or will be addressed independent of the current planning effort; ‘D’—determined to be beyond the scope of current planning.				

Mineral-related comments that will be addressed during BLM’s current planning effort are limited to reducing and limiting mining activities. Limitations will be imposed due to requirements set forth in the Proclamation. Minerals management will be further analyzed, but BLM’s management will be limited to those criteria described previously.

Agency Concerns

- Tonto National Forest has expressed concern with regard to outstanding mineral rights. The Forest feels any shared claim blocks or operations (current or historic) should be identified and a common objective established for operation or reclamation.

Management Concerns

- Abandoned mines may be present that pose potential safety hazards to the public. Through the plan, BLM will identify and develop abandoned mine management policies to address public safety concerns.
- BLM should identify post-mining land uses.
- BLM must examine valid existing mineral rights within the Monument and determine how will they be managed so that Monument values can be preserved while accommodating the existing rights.
- In accordance with the Proclamation, BLM has withdrawn all land and interest in land, including, but not limited to, withdrawal from mineral location, entry and patent under the mining laws and for disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing, other than by exchange that furthers the protective purposes of the Monument.

Additional Planning Criteria

- No additional planning criteria documented for “Minerals.”

Issue AF-10: Hazardous Materials and Solid Waste

BLM's hazardous material and solid waste program focuses on managing known hazards to human health and the environment. The hazardous materials program also deals with the management of everyday items that may contain substances that are harmful to the environment. Controls are instituted to manage storage, application, and disposal of these items. The solid waste program focuses on the management of solid waste (trash or garbage), including both legally collected and disposed materials and materials that are illegally dumped on BLM-administered lands. Illegal dumping can create a serious threat to both public land users and natural systems. Both solid and hazardous wastes are managed in accordance with the requirements outlined the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation Liability Act (CERCLA), and other parallel state laws.

Public Concerns

The documented comments regarding "Hazardous Materials and Solid Waste" and associated planning classifications are summarized in Table AF-16.

Table AF-16. Hazardous Materials/Solid Waste

Comment	Planning Classification ¹			
	A	B	C	D
Increase preventative measures for litter/dumping			✓	
¹ Issues are classified as follows: 'A'—will be addressed in the current Resource Management Plan; 'B'—will be resolved through policy or administrative actions; 'C'—are already being addressed or will be addressed independent of the current planning effort; 'D'—determined to be beyond the scope of current planning.				

Throughout the scoping process, public concern has viewed the issue of "Hazardous Materials and Solid Waste" as a high priority, with numerous individuals stating that preventative measures for both litter and dumping need to be increased. Comments make reference to the abundance of litter and illegal dumping on BLM-administered lands. Different affiliations, such as trails and OHV groups, mentioned utilizing public volunteers to aid in cleaning up such sites.

Agency Concerns

- Tonto National Forest is concerned that increases in public access to the Monument through the Forest will increase litter problems in the Forest. They would also like BLM to identify hazardous material sites at historical mining operations.

Management Concerns

- Identify if potential illegal hazardous waste sites exist (through performance of an Initial Site Assessment) and develop a strategy for ameliorating risks associated with these sites.

- Identify possible hazardous materials used and/or stored either directly by BLM or by lessees of BLM lands.
- Include updated management plan for the storage, application (use), and disposal of hazardous materials used either directly by BLM or by lessees of BLM lands.
- Identify and rank risks associated with former mining sites, prospector pits, and ore processing sites, with special attention given to the Richinbar Mine Property.
- Identify, prioritize, and mitigate natural features that may pose a threat to public health and safety.

Additional Planning Criteria

- For BLM to be an effective steward of public lands, existing conditions should be accurately assessed and detrimental activities minimized. This is especially true of issues involving hazardous wastes, since the release of relatively small volumes of contaminants into the natural environment can harm relatively large tracts of land or populations. Knowledge of hazardous waste characteristics and patterns of improper disposal are critical to the planning process. With a clear understanding of hazardous waste disposal concerns, planners can identify steps for mitigation that are often simple and low-cost.

Issue AF-11: Soils, Water, and Air

To prevent degradation of the sensitive resources found in the Agua Fria National Monument, soil, water, and air quality will be closely managed by BLM. BLM will manage these resources in accordance with applicable federal regulations, including the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act. Other guidance will be derived from State of Arizona standards, in addition to conformance with the Proclamation.

Understanding the conditions of all three resources is extremely important when developing a land use plan. BLM helps to protect soils by preventing or reducing wind and water erosion and by avoiding uses in fragile soil areas. By identifying and quantifying claims to water rights on public lands, BLM protects water resources. Furthermore, BLM protects the air quality of public lands by ensuring authorized activities comply with state air quality standards.

Public Concerns

The documented comments regarding “Soils, Water, and Air” and associated planning classifications are summarized in Table AF-17.

Table AF-17. Soils, Water, and Air

Comment	Planning Classification ¹			
	A	B	C	D
Conduct hydrological studies of watershed	✓			
Restrict access to surface water from miners	✓			
Restrict access to surface water from OHV users	✓			
¹ Issues are classified as follows: ‘A’—will be addressed in the current Resource Management Plan; ‘B’—will be resolved through policy or administrative actions; ‘C’—are already being addressed or will be addressed independent of the current planning effort; ‘D’—determined to be beyond the scope of current planning.				

The comments received specifying issues with soils, water and air will be addressed in the RMP. Conducting hydrological studies of the watershed will aid in determining how restrictive access to surface water should be. BLM will decide to what degree access to surface waters should be restricted, and to whom.

Agency Concerns

- No agency concerns were documented for “Soils, Water and Air.”

Management Concerns

- ADEQ has identified numerous surface waters as “Limited” (i.e., waters containing higher than minimum levels of some measured pollutant) within the planning area. BLM needs to identify any public health or safety risks associated with contact with these waters. BLM needs to develop a plan of action to reduce the measured pollutants and recover these waters where practical.
- BLM will identify ADEQ-designated Category I Watersheds in the planning area and determine what, if any, restoration actions need to be considered for these watersheds.
- BLM will identify what activities within the planning area do not conform with the air quality standards developed by ADEQ, with special attention given to the PM-10 non-attainment area in Maricopa County. BLM will develop management prescriptions needed to ensure its compliance with local and federal regulations associated with the Clean Air Act of 1990.
- In accordance with the Agua Fria National Monument Proclamation, BLM will identify, quantify, and notify the Arizona Department of Water Resources of its federal reserved water rights within the Monument in the Agua Fria River Watershed.
- The environmental analysis in this plan will identify surface and groundwater resources, including instream flows of the Agua Fria River within the Monument, and discuss where there are data gaps and where further monitoring should occur.
- In conjunction with the instream flow study to be conducted on the Agua Fria River within the Monument, BLM will identify the flows needed to preserve

the proposed “Wild and Scenic” river segments in their free-flowing condition to protect the outstandingly remarkable values.

Additional Planning Criteria

- Develop management prescriptions needed to ensure that BLM stay in compliance with local and federal regulations associated with the Clean Air Act of 1990.
- Water source inventory methods will be in accordance with the Arizona BLM 7250 Water Rights Manual.
- Water source data, proposed monitoring sites, and data gaps will be obtained from an ongoing groundwater characterization study report being conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey for BLM.
- The identification and quantification of the federal reserved water rights for the Monument will be in accordance with the language in the Proclamation. The RMP will establish procedures to identify and quantify the Water Right for proper notification to the Arizona Department of Water Resources.
- The instream flow needs assessment for the Agua Fria River will be completed in accordance with the water rights language for the Agua Fria River in the *Arizona Statewide Wild and Scenic Rivers Legislative Environmental Impact Statement* (BLM 1994).

Summaries of Collaborative Planning Efforts Completed Prior to the Current Scoping Process

James Kent Associates (JKA) performed two key collaborative planning studies for the Agua Fria National Monument and Bradshaw Harquahala planning areas prior to the current scoping process. The first of these, titled *Summary Report of Community Fieldwork for Southern Bradshaw Planning*, dated February 7, 2001, is summarized in the “Compilation Planning Report A” section below. The second report, *Bradshaw Foothills, Agua Fria National Monument, and Harquahala Mountains Planning Effort: Issues, Management Concerns, and Management and Partnership Opportunities by Community Resource Units (CRUs)*, dated June 1, 2002, is summarized in the “Compilation Report B” section that follows.

Collaborative Planning Report A

Under Assistance Agreement No. 1422P850A80015 between JKA and BLM, JKA began work in September 1999 under Task Order No. 2 to assist the BLM PFO in conducting community fieldwork in residential areas surrounding the southern Bradshaw Mountains.

JKA was asked to train and guide BLM staff in engaging in fieldwork in nearby communities and to participate with them in the fieldwork process. Using The Discovery Process™, the goal was to “enter the routines” of the communities, engaging in informal discussions, and identifying the social networks and communication patterns. In particular, the team wanted to know citizen issues related to the management of the Bradshaws, opportunities for collaborative stewardship and participation in the long-term management of public lands in the Bradshaws, and contributions to BLM urban policy.

As a whole, residents were clear in their desires that the southern Bradshaws remain in public ownership and oriented to recreation. The worries about urbanization were very widespread (“I make my living with growth, but...”). Residents believed sound management in the Bradshaws will preserve leisure and recreation interests that are otherwise not met in a metropolitan area. Most people had strong interest in the value of the land for open space and buffers in an increasingly urbanized setting. The recent burst of urban growth has made the desert environment of the southern Bradshaws, particularly because of its close proximity to Phoenix, a highly valued resource (“Where can people go to recreate from Phoenix in one hour?”). OHV impacts were consistently believed to be widespread and negative, but most people were clear in their value for not closing off public lands. People thought that a collaborative approach to manage this activity was especially appropriate. Finally, there was a split in our findings between people that wanted increased access to the southern Bradshaws and others who wanted to lessen access in order to manage impacts and preserve lower-density uses.

Three main geographic areas were determined to be important influences on the management of the southern Bradshaw Mountains:

1. The Wickenburg Area
2. The Black Canyon Corridor Area
3. The West Valley Area

Wickenburg

Wickenburg is known as a horse area. The economy is based on wealthy retirement and specialty dude ranches catering to the wealthy and to those with special needs such as bulimia, drug and alcohol addiction, and other human ailments. Employers are having trouble keeping workers because of the high cost of living in the Wickenburg area. The economic and equestrian interests of the population network it to other areas of the globe. The recreation and services economy is well developed in Wickenburg. Horse trails in town and on private lands, for example, link to trails on BLM lands and are important to the dude ranch operations.

“Our tourism caters to the people who are looking for the ‘Old West.’ We use the southern Bradshaws for horseback rides, cattle drives, and hummer tours.”

The twin values are for preserving the character and western heritage of the area and for economic development appropriate to that heritage.

“I want to keep open space around here the way it is.”

“More of our kids are coming back. I tease my kids, how long are they going to wait, but they are not yet sick of city life and career challenges.”

”Wickenburg is changing into a major playground for the Phoenix folks.”

“The goal should be to keep the land healthy amidst the pressures of growth.”

The most widespread citizen issue related to public lands was trash dumping. It seems everyone had a story about how bad it was. Much of the problem was attributed to the lack of landfills and transfer stations.

The second most frequent public issue related to natural resource management was the concern of off-highway uses and their effects on the land.

“OHVs [off highway vehicles] are trashing the land and leaving garbage.”

“The backcountry should have well-defined roads and activity zones.”

Continued access to public lands was the third major natural resource issue of residents.

“Many people are afraid of losing access to public lands, especially long timers.”

Black Canyon Corridor

The Black Canyon Corridor includes the communities of Black Canyon City, New River, Anthem, Cave Creek and Carefree. These community areas have been distinct in the past, but urban growth is creating a single unit with a common future. The area is very diverse, socially and economically. A large segment of people are like many in New River, rural dwellers of modest means who have attempted to get out the urban lifestyle of Phoenix. These folks, dispersed throughout this area, actively use public lands and talked about continued access and multiple use of public lands. They use horses, boats, and RVs in abundance, along with some off-highway vehicle use. The local ambience is rapidly shifting because of a new layer of wealthier commuters, retired people, and snowbirds (part time residents). Newer settlement indicates higher densities, higher value homes, and a changing demographic profile. Newer homes are more expensive and built at higher elevations. New residents are also bringing in more leadership, community development, and economic growth.

“Real estate turnover in this town is constant and high.”

“About half of the people who come to Black Canyon City are seasonal, winter residents. Some leave for three months a year, and some are just ‘stopovers.’”

“We moved here to escape from all the development of Phoenix. We don’t want this area to just become an extension of the city.”

Natural resource and land use issues relate to:

Trash

“I used to pick it up when I hiked, but I don’t anymore.”

Land trades, exchanges and sales.

“We don’t want federal land traded or sold for development.”

Lack of access to public lands:

“There is not good access to BLM to the west across the Agua Fria. In the past, it has not been difficult to cross private land to access public land, but that is becoming more difficult.”

There appears to be strong support for the maintenance of public lands, especially with regard to recreation, wildlife, and visual resources.

“We want to preserve the views of the desert and the Bradshaws from town. All the houses we see going up on the hillsides mar the views we have had for years.”

Recreation impacts on public lands is a widespread citizen issue:

“There are too many uninformed and uneducated recreationists. They get lost, they get stuck, they don’t respect the land, they do not understand the needs of wildlife.”

“It used to be that people could come up here and do as they pleased, but there are just too many people here today, so we must have rules.”

West Valley

The West Valley area generally corresponds from Phoenix north into the Bradshaws and from Interstate 17 west to Castle Hot Springs Road. Whereas the northern edges of this area has shared the value and history of the Wickenburg and Black Canyon Corridor Areas, the rapid urbanization of Phoenix in the last 15 years has forever changed this area. The City of Peoria, for example, has recently annexed north to include all of Lake Pleasant within city limits. The dispersed, rural or semi-rural nature of settlement in this area is being rapidly supplanted by high-density subdivision development. Talk of growth and its consequences permeate discussion across all publics and in political circles. Themes of hopelessness and anger characterize these discussions. It appears as if the rate and nature of growth has superseded the ability of residents to comfortably absorb and has led to a decline in perceived quality of life. Many people have felt victimized by these events—that things have happened *to* them and not *with* them.

The primary research strategy for this area was to contact residents in the dispersed area in the north part of the zone, primarily the Castle Hot Springs community, and to contact businesses in the urban area that cater to recreational user groups that utilize the area. The research revealed that, rather than the entire urban area making use of the Bradshaws, it is primarily West Valley residents who use the area. Residents from other metropolitan areas tend to use public lands closer to them, that is, to the north, east, and southwest, although OHV clubs, for example, rotate their areas of use and so utilize the Bradshaws on an intermittent basis.

Citizen issues from the Castle Hot Springs area related to:

“There has been a continuous increase of people, mainly ATV users. Rutting and wash boarding of the roads, shooting up signs, some vandalism of buildings, trespass on private lands, and dumping of trash, vehicles, and dead bodies have been the result.” [common]

Issues of the urban users of the Bradshaws relate to reduced road maintenance of the last several years, leading to erosion and road degradation, vandalism, and high traffic speeds of some recreation users.

“There are more kids out there, partying, and trashing things up.”

“The area around Lake Pleasant and Crown King has lots of trails and four-wheel drive roads that spur off that are good riding. But they are kind of rough.”

“Residential people want roads maintained so you can do at least 30 or 40 MPH.”

“Fees are OK if they help keep the trails open and maintained.”

Collaborative Planning Report B

Presented below is a summary of the June 1, 2002 JKA report titled *Bradshaw Foothills, Agua Fria National Monument, and Harquahala Mountains Planning Effort: Issues, Management Concerns, and Management and Partnership Opportunities by Community Resource Units (CRUs)*.

This study reported the results of additional fieldwork in the several communities of BLM’s land use planning area. BLM determined to expand the geographic area to be covered in its land use planning process, so JKA was asked to assess citizen issues in new areas. From coverage of Wickenburg, Black Canyon Corridor, the West Valley areas of metro Phoenix, we were asked to include the Community Resource Units (CRUs) of Prescott Valley, Agua Fria, Buckeye Valley, Buckeye, West Tonopah, Aguila, and Yarnell. Summaries of issues within each area are presented below.

Wickenburg CRU

Trash	Trails
Access	Abandoned mines
Open space and tenure	Hassayampa Box Canyon

Yarnell CRU

Gold mining	Trails
Trash	

Tonopah Valley CRU

Trash dumping	Parks and open space
OHV damage	

Castle Hot Springs CRU

OHV/ATV damage	Road dust
Overuse	Speeding
Trespass, fence cutting	Trails

North Phoenix/Peoria CRU

Development pressure
Urban sprawl/annexation
Increased OHV use

Trails
Open space
Target shooting

Buckeye CRU

ATV damage of ranchlands
Urban growth
Open space & natural corridors

Illegal dumping
Monuments/regulations

New River/Cave Creek/Carefree CRU

Land use planning
Dispersed ATV use

R&PP leases
Trash

Black Canyon City CRU

Incorporation
Open space
Access
Visual quality

Fire safety
Illegal dumping
Land tenure
Agua Fria National Monument

Mayer/Cordes CRU

Emergency alternate routes
Regional transportation
Community park
Access

Water
Future land tenure
Trail designation
Protection of cultural sites

Dewey/Humboldt CRU

Rural character
Open space
Incorporation
Illegal dumping

Land exchange
Access
Water

Community Area Issues

In an effort to relate the analysis and discussion of issues to the community level, the planning areas were divided into six community areas. The community areas are identified in Figure 4, and are based upon ongoing community studies by James Kent and Associates. The local community areas were designated as: Phoenix, Buckeye, Wickenburg–Yarnell–Castle Hot Springs, Prescott–Prescott Valley–Chino Valley, Black Canyon City–New River, and Dewey–Humboldt–Spring Valley. Northern Arizona, Southern Arizona, “Out of State” and “Unknown” categories were also identified. The following is a discussion of the prevalent issues identified as a result of comments received from local communities during the scoping process. Summaries of the most commonly referenced issues, by community area, are presented in Tables CA-1 through CA-6.

Prescott–Prescott Valley–Chino Valley

The Prescott–Prescott Valley–Chino Valley area represents the most northerly communities within the planning areas. Issues most commonly identified by respondents in this area are shown in Table CA-1.

Table CA-1. Prescott–Prescott Valley–Chino Valley Area Issues

Prevalent Issues	Prevalent Representative Comments
Lands and Realty	Remove land from the disposal list; stop urban sprawl; restrict development to prevent depletion of groundwater; cultural and biological resources should be preserved on BLM lands.
Visual Resources	The “natural beauty” of BLM land should be preserved and land should remain untouched.
Wilderness/Special Areas	Expand wilderness designations; conduct wilderness inventories; manage the Agua Fria River as Wild and Scenic River and designate as Area of Critical Environmental Concern.
Transportation Network	Maintain public access; close and rehabilitate routes that threaten cultural resources; increase access for the handicapped; allow access for nonmotorized vehicles only.
Off-Highway Vehicles	Restrict and limit OHV use; close some trails; enforce rules for OHV use; maintain existing trails; require licensing.

Dewey–Humboldt–Spring Valley

The Dewey–Humboldt–Spring Valley area represents the communities located in close proximity to the northwestern border of the Agua Fria National Monument. Issues most commonly identified by respondents in this area are shown in Table CA-2.

Table CA-2. Dewey–Humboldt–Spring Valley Area Issues

Prevalent Issues	Prevalent Representative Comments
Lands and Realty	Remove land from the disposal list; stop urban sprawl; restrict development to prevent depletion of groundwater; cultural and biological resources should be preserved on BLM lands; land should be sold or traded to developers.
Cultural/Paleontological Resources	Increase protection of existing sites; allow only limited access to existing sites; prevent grazing in areas of cultural significance; conduct cultural resource inventories; establish educational programs; remedy archaeological looting.
Transportation Network	Create environmentally sensitive transportation system; maintain public access; close and rehabilitate routes that threaten cultural resources; increase access for the handicapped; allow access for nonmotorized vehicles only.
Off-Highway Vehicles	Restrict and limit OHV use; use volunteer help from OHV users; establish rules for OHV use; establish educational programs; close some trails; maintain existing trails; require licensing.
Recreation/Public Access	Allow for recreational use; no new roads developed; develop multiple use areas; increase user fees; designated open space and trails should be marked; establish educational programs; build visitor center; restrict or close camping areas; restrict shooting; maintain quiet areas; improve trail management.

Wickenburg–Castle Hot Springs–Yarnell

Wickenburg–Castle Hot Springs–Yarnell, which represents the largest community in size within the planning areas, is located in the north, west, and central part of the Bradshaw-Harquahala planning area. In addition to individual comments, BLM received a compilation of letters and information from a variety of community organizations, submitted by the Wickenburg Outdoor Recreation Committee. This information, which identifies selected community resources and provides background information related to use of BLM lands in the Wickenburg area, has been included below in the “Additional Comment Reports” section. The issues most commonly identified by resident individuals in this area are shown in Table CA-3.

Table CA-3. Wickenburg–Castle Hot Springs–Yarnell Area Issues

Prevalent Issues	Prevalent Representative Comments
Lands and Realty	Remove land from the disposal list; stop urban sprawl; restrict development to prevent depletion of groundwater; cultural and biological resources should be preserved on BLM lands.
Visual Resources	The “natural beauty” of BLM land should be preserved and land should remain untouched.
Grazing	Continue leases for grazing; limit grazing; evaluate grazing impacts.
Off-Highway Vehicles	Restrict and limit OHV use; establish educational programs; maintain and allow usage on existing trails close some trails; maintain existing trails; require licensing.
Recreation/Public Access	Allow for recreational use; develop multiple use areas; increase user fees; designated open space and trails should be marked; establish educational programs; reduce size of trailheads to discourage overuse; restrict shooting; maintain quiet areas; improve trail maintenance; joint BLM/community land stewardship should be enacted.

Black Canyon City–New River

The Black Canyon City–New River area represents the smallest in geographic size, and is located in the eastern part of the planning areas, along the I-17 corridor south of Agua Fria National Monument. Along with many comments from individual parties, two formal reports were submitted by organizations in Black Canyon City community area. These reports, provided by the Black Canyon City Community Association and the New River/Desert Hills Community Association, are summarized in the “Additional Comment Reports” section. Issues most commonly identified by individual respondents from this area are summarized in Table CA-4.

Table CA-4. Black Canyon City–New River Area Issues

Prevalent Issues	Prevalent Representative Comments
Lands and Realty	Remove land from the disposal list; stop urban sprawl; restrict development to prevent depletion of groundwater; land must be developed to accommodate growth; cultural and biological resources should be preserved on BLM lands.
Visual Resources	The “natural beauty” of BLM land should be preserved and the land should remain untouched.
Transportation Network	Maintain public access; designations should be made for primitive areas and motorized areas; close and rehabilitate routes that threaten cultural resources; increase access for the handicapped; create environmentally sensitive transportation system; allow access for nonmotorized vehicles only.
Off-Highway Vehicles	Restrict and limit OHV use; establish educational program for OHV users; close some trails; establish and enforce rules for OHV use; maintain and allow usage on existing trails; require licensing.
Recreation/Public Access	Allow for recreational use; no new roads; build visitor center; trails should be better maintained to encourage users to stay on trails; increase user fees; designated open space and trails should be marked; establish educational programs; restrict shooting; joint BLM/community land stewardship should be enacted.

Buckeye

The Buckeye area represents one of the largest geographic areas in the western part of the planning areas. Issues most commonly identified by respondents in this area are shown in Table CA-5.

Table CA-5. Buckeye Area Issues

Prevalent Issues	Prevalent Representative Comments
Lands and Realty	Remove land from the disposal list; restrict development to prevent depletion of groundwater; stop urban sprawl/no new development; cultural and biological resources should be preserved on BLM lands.
Wilderness/Special Designation Areas	Expand wilderness designations; conduct wilderness inventories; manage the Agua Fria River as Wild and Scenic River; expand Agua Fria National Monument to include New River and Tonto National Forest.
Transportation Network	Maintain public access; close and rehabilitate routes that threaten cultural resources; designations should also be made for primitive areas and for motorized areas.
Off-Highway Vehicles	Restrict and limit OHV use; enforce rules for OHV use; develop additional trails; use volunteer help from OHV users; establish educational program for OHV users.
Recreation/Public Access	Allow for recreational use; trails should be better maintained to encourage users to stay on trails; establish educational programs; develop multiple use areas.

Phoenix

The Phoenix area represents the most populous area in the planning areas, and at its northern boundary includes the rapidly developing suburbs of Peoria, Glendale, and Surprise. Issues most commonly identified by respondents in this area are shown in Table CA-6.

Table CA-6. Phoenix Area Issues

Prevalent Issues	Prevalent Representative Comments
Lands and Realty	Remove land from the disposal list; restrict development to prevent depletion of groundwater; stop urban sprawl; cultural and biological resources should be preserved on BLM lands.
Wilderness/Special Areas	Expand wilderness designations; reduce amount of wilderness designations; conduct wilderness inventories; manage the Agua Fria River as Wild and Scenic River and designate as Area of Critical Environmental Concern; expand Agua Fria National Monument to include New River and Tonto National Forest.
Transportation Network	Maintain public access; close and rehabilitate routes that threaten cultural resources; increase access for the handicapped; limit access to discourage extensive use; designations should be made for primitive areas and for motorized areas; allow access for nonmotorized vehicles only.
Off-Highway Vehicles	Restrict and limit OHV use; close some trails; establish and enforce rules for OHV use; maintain existing trails; use volunteer help from OHV users; develop additional trails; establish educational program for OHV users; require licensing.
Recreation/Public Access	Allow for recreational use; no new roads; build visitor center; trails should be better maintained to encourage users to stay on trails; increase user fees; designated open space and trails should be marked; establish educational programs; restrict shooting; allow for hunting and shooting; develop multiple use areas; maintain quiet areas; increase camping areas; establish per-family (rather than per-vehicle) user permit program; joint BLM/community land stewardship should be enacted.

Additional Comment Reports

In addition to individual comments, separate reports expressing comments and concerns regarding the planning areas were received from the following organizations and municipalities:

- Arizona Rivers Coalition
- Arizona Wilderness Coalition
- Black Canyon City
- Natural Trails and Waters Coalition
- New River/Desert Hills Community Association, Inc.
- The Wilderness Society, and
- Town of Wickenburg.

In addition, a compilation report was received from representatives of Friends of the Earth, the National Wildlife Federation, the Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society, and the U.S. Public Interest Research Group (PIRG); this report is referred to in the text below as “Compilation Report A.” A separate compilation report was submitted by representatives of the Sierra Club, Arizona Wilderness Coalition, Center for Biological Diversity, Friends of Cabeza Prieta, Grand Canyon Wildlands Council, Defenders of Wildlife, and Parsons Biological Consulting, which is referred to in the text below as “Compilation Report B.”

The following are summaries of each of the above-referenced reports.

Arizona Rivers Coalition

The Arizona Rivers Coalition (ARC) proposes that an 18-mile segment of the Agua Fria River, from the confluence with Sycamore Creek near Cordes Junction to the confluence with Larry Creek just north of Lake Pleasant, be designated a Wild and Scenic River. Specifically, ARC recommends that the 6 miles from Sycamore Creek to Horseshoe Ranch be designated for recreational use, while the 12 miles from Horseshoe Ranch to Larry Creek remain wild and undisturbed. The ARC report cites numerous recreational, ecological, and cultural values that may be preserved by designating this segment of the Agua Fria as Wild and Scenic.

Arizona Wilderness Coalition

The Arizona Wilderness Coalition (AWC) submitted a two-part compilation report that includes comment texts and GIS shapefiles on CD-ROM. The first text portion of the AWC report makes a number of recommendations related to

management of both the Agua Fria National Monument and the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area, including:

- Expand the Agua Fria National Monument to include the New River Mountains in the Tonto National Forest.
- Protect instream flow of the Agua Fria River to preserve riparian habitat and native fish.
- Do not approve any new rights-of-way within the Agua Fria National Monument.
- Do not build any visitors centers within the boundaries of the Monument or place signs for the Monument along I-17.
- Develop a designated dispersed camping system along major routes within the Monument.
- Designate 22.4 miles of the Agua Fria River (as originally described in the BLM's 1994 *Arizona Statewide Wild and Scenic Rivers Legislative Environmental Impact Statement*) as Wild and Scenic.
- Designate as Wilderness Study Areas certain portions of the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area (specific documentation to be provided by AWC at a later date).
- Remove the more than 17,000 acres of BLM lands in the Dewey-Humboldt-Mayer area from the disposal list and keep them in public ownership.
- Do not develop off-road vehicle (ORV) challenge courses or race tracks.
- Do not issue new permits for ORV events on public lands.

The second and larger portion of the AWC submittal proposes Wilderness Study Area designations for approximately 40% of the Agua Fria National Monument. Specifically, the report recommends that two contiguous units within the Agua Fria National Monument, one comprising 11,892 acres and the other comprising 16,775 acres, be designated as Wilderness Study Areas. The AWC points out that its proposals are consistent with the Presidential Proclamation that established the Monument and mandated that its biological and cultural resources be protected. Furthermore, the AWC proposals allow for the continued use and maintenance of facilities related to the management of livestock grazing, state game and fish administered wildlife waters, and mining operations under the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Black Canyon City

In April 2002, the Black Canyon City Community Association formed a Land Use Committee in response to BLM's stated intention to revise the existing RMP. The Committee was established to survey residents of Black Canyon City, address current uses of public lands, document desired future uses of public lands, determine undesirable uses of public land, and compile the survey results so as to identify the community's key issues and concerns.

The following summary represents the survey responses collected from 301 residents of Black Canyon City. The main issues the survey addressed were grouped into the following categories: protection and utilization of natural resources; land status/tenure; economic and educational opportunity development; protection of habitat and wilderness areas; development of recreational opportunities; and access to public lands.

The respondents from Black Canyon City do not want to see more development of public lands surrounding the community. With regard to grazing, residents do not want “open range,” but are in support of grazing allotments and the maintenance of water facilities by the owners of those allotments. Litter, including illegal dumping of trash and other waste, is also a concern.

Residents want to see the Bradshaw and New River Mountains preserved in a natural state. They seek protection for the Agua Fria River, wildlife, flora and fauna, scenic beauty and, especially, water resources. Residents request that land be reserved for recreational purposes, medical facilities, parks, trails for horseback riding, a family community center, and an extension for the Agua Fria National Monument. Additional comments include increasing police protection and selling requested land to the Black Canyon City fire department.

Although preservation is important, they also do not want to see use of BLM land restricted. They do not want the Agua Fria River or Black Canyon closed to the public. Residents want to see rights-of-way established so that BLM land can be easily accessible. Land use areas should be designated either as wilderness or for recreational uses. Black Canyon City residents also wish to encourage BLM to take advantage of the willingness of various residents to serve as volunteers.

Natural Trails and Waters Coalition

The Natural Trails and Waters Coalition (NTWC) specifically addresses OHV use within the Agua Fria National Monument. The issues are separated into seven main categories: management principles, the RMP development process, travel management planning, resource impacts, visitor conflicts, and public safety. The NTWC submitted principles and standards they consider appropriate for the BLM to follow as the Agua Fria National Monument RMP is developed. Presented below is a summary of highlighted points from each section.

Management Principles:

- OHVs must be limited to roads specifically designated for their use following appropriate analysis under NEPA.
- BLM should adopt a “closed unless posted open” policy.

Plan Development Process:

- Due to the impact the RMP will have on the Monument over the next several years, BLM must follow a systematic, interdisciplinary approach while ensuring an adequate public participation process.

Travel Management Planning:

- The developed transportation system must further protect the purposes of the Monument and must determine that each road included in the system(s) is necessary for specified and defined uses of the Monument.
- BLM must establish criteria to determine eligibility of OHV authorization.
- Criteria must be established to determine what constitutes a road.

Resource Impacts, Visitor Conflicts and Public Safety:

- BLM must develop the RMP in accordance with 43 CFR 8342, "Designation of Areas and Trails."

The previously noted recommendations were formulated after careful consideration of BLM's responsibilities under Proclamation 7263; Executive Orders and federal regulations related to OHV management; and federal laws including NEPA, the Wilderness Act, and FLPMA.

New River/Desert Hills Community Association, Inc.

After surveying 47 households within the New River and Desert Hills communities, the New River/Desert Hills Community Association submitted a report titled "Bradshaw Foothills Area Land Use Opinion Survey and Data Collection Results." The survey contained two questions:

- What do you value about these public lands and why?
- What activities or uses do you NOT want on these public lands and why?

The submitted report summarizes the findings of the survey and includes detailed responses to individual questions and overall response percentages. The following is a list of the community's top recommendations as derived from the survey responses:

- Preserve the scenic and recreational value of the land.
- Remove all lands currently designated as "disposal" from that list (except the small parcel being transferred to Maricopa County for the New River Kiwanis Club and Senior Center).
- Ensure there is free public access to BLM land (including across private lands).
- Preserve the wildlife and vegetation of the area.
- Protect the watershed and our water resources.

- Protect and preserve areas of cultural and /or historical value.

The Wilderness Society

The Wilderness Society submitted a report on behalf of its 200,000 members focusing on the development of a transportation system to provide public access throughout the Agua Fria National Monument. The Wilderness Society believes the current network of roads should be used, rather than BLM permitting construction of new roads. Furthermore, the Wilderness Society proposes that many unnecessary existing roads should be closed and reclaimed to protect the Monument.

The Wilderness Society references the model used for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and requests that BLM use a similar model for the Agua Fria National Monument. In the Escalante model, BLM did not conduct an inventory of every road, route, trail, and tire track in the Monument. Rather, BLM solicited input from the public concerning access needs, combined those results with agency research, and developed a set of transportation network alternatives that were evaluated during the resource management planning process. The important factor is that roads not included on the transportation system were, by definition, closed. The Wilderness Society feels strongly that this model could greatly benefit BLM when developing a transportation system for the Agua Fria National Monument.

In addition, the report addresses overall management principles the Wilderness Society would like to see BLM follow as the planning process continues. Other highlighted comments by the Wilderness Society include:

- BLM must first inventory the objects of historic and scientific interest before a transportation system can be developed.
- BLM should present the public with a series of alternative transportation systems in the draft RMP.
- The transportation alternative must further protect purposes of the Monument.
- Each road must be justified and managed with the proper level of NEPA analysis.
- Each road must be deemed in fact necessary.

Town of Wickenburg

The packet of information submitted by the Town of Wickenburg includes a letter from the Wickenburg Outdoor Recreation Committee expressing a common vision shared by 15 entities: the Town of Wickenburg, Wickenburg Chamber of Commerce, Wickenburg Cultural and Conservation Foundation, Desert Caballeros, Hassayampa River Preserve, Las Damas, Desert Caballeros

Western Museum, Wickenburg Hiking Club, Wickenburg Horseman's Association, Wickenburg Saddle Club, Sportsmen's Association, Hassayampa Bowhunters, Kay-L Bar Ranch, Robson's Mining World, and Maricopa County Sheriff's Posse.

The common vision is that these organizations want the public land surrounding the town to be preserved with all its present multiple uses.

The packet also included individual letters from several of the aforementioned organizations supporting this vision.

Also included in the packet is a "Cultural Inventory for Wickenburg," submitted by the Wickenburg Cultural and Conservation Foundation and the Arizona Commission on the Arts.

Compilation Report A

This compilation report was submitted by Friends of the Earth, the National Wildlife Federation, the Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society, and the U.S. Public Interest Research Group ("Compilation Group A"). Compilation Group A's joint comments emphasize preservation of the natural, historic, prehistoric, scenic and other values of the Agua Fria National Monument in accordance with provisions of Presidential Proclamation 7263 and the broader conservation objectives of the National Landscape Conservation System. The report proposes that BLM develop a vision for management of the Monument that will:

- Protect, conserve, and restore the special values of the landscape;
- Protect, conserve, and restore the remote and undeveloped character of the landscape;
- Foster scientific inquiry to enhance resource management and public education; and
- Build community relationships to foster cooperative stewardship.

In considerable detail, supported by reference to existing laws, regulations, BLM guidance, and scientific standards, Compilation Group A presents an analysis of a range of issues relevant to development of the RMP for the Monument, including cultural, geological, and paleontologic resources; biodiversity and habitat; water resources; grazing; facilities and operations; fire management; implementation and funding; permits and rights-of-way; recreation; transportation planning; and ORVs. The report also makes highly specific management recommendations for each resource issue.

In accordance with the principles of Adaptive Ecosystem Management (AEM), Compilation Group A recommends that BLM develop measurable goals, objectives, and desired outcomes to ensure that progress in management of the Monument can be accurately tracked. Furthermore, BLM should determine

maximum carrying capacities and critical ecological thresholds for use to ensure natural resource sustainability.

Compilation Report B

A compilation report was submitted by the Sierra Club, Arizona Wilderness Coalition, the Center for Biological Diversity, Friends of Cabeza Prieta, the Grand Canyon Wildlands Council, Defenders of Wildlife, and Parsons Biological Consulting (“Compilation Group B”). Two reports were submitted, one an extensive report detailing scoping comments and the other a report outlining a transportation plan.

The report summarizing scoping comments listed suggestions for each of the following categories:

- Motorized travel;
- The legal definition of a road;
- Agua Fria National Monument Transportation Plan;
- Motorized and mechanized access;
- Recreation Management;
- Visitor and resident safety;
- Community relationships and stewardship;
- Easements and rights-of-way;
- Biological values (including: inventory and monitoring, roads, access and OHVs, grazing, fragmentation, monitoring and limits of acceptable change, habitat restoration, species, management, ecosystem management, animal damage control, water quality, water rights and in-stream flow protection);
- Cultural, historical and archaeological objects;
- Mining;
- Wilderness;
- Protection of natural quiet;
- Planning issues; and
- Land ownership issues.

Compilation Group B’s proposed “Agua Fria National Monument Transportation Plan” includes a “Proposed Travel Way System” map of the Monument and detailed recommendations for each of the following transportation-related topics:

- Private and administrative access,
- Public access,

- Resource protection,
- Public safety,
- Protection of public property,
- Road rehabilitation, and
- BLM legal definition of a “road.”

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